



Mosaic from Resurrection Chapel, Washington National Cathedral (USA)

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 / 10:30AM

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

C F C F C/G G7 C

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day! Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - le - lu - ia!

F Dm7 G C F C/G G7 C

All cre - a - tion, join to say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!

G C G Am G/D D7 G

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - le - lu - ia!

C F C F C/G G7 C

Sing, O heavens, and earth, re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
 Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
 Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
 Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!
 Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia!
 Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!

Gathered

Prelude

Today's Prelude
Easter Carillon (Robert J. Powell)

Greeting and Welcome

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come;
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the
kings of earth! **Alleluia, Amen!**

The minister continues in greeting and welcome.

▲ Sharing of Easter Greetings

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

▲ Processional Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”
See opposite page. EASTER HYMN

▲ Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
On this joyous morning,
we celebrate that our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life.
We join with the whole company of God's people
in recalling and celebrating his victory over death
and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and despair.
For it is written:

**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 did not overcome it.**

The Christ Candle, extinguished on Good Friday, is lit again.

Beloved, today, the light of Christ rises in glory,
overcoming the despair of sin and death.
Thanks be to God!

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
Not to be confused with the similarly
named, though different Latin hymn “Jesus
Christ is Risen Today,” this Wesley hymn
was originally printed as eleven four-line
stanzas without alleluias. This Easter text
was written during the first year following
the author's life-changing conversion ex-
perience, yet it already shows his enduring
emphasis on the theme of love. The tune
here (EASTER HYMN) was taken from the
emerging English ‘evangelical’ style, a reac-
tion to the far more restrained one-note-
per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

The Word

Gathering Song

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

“Be Not Afraid” (Taizé Community)
Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as “Nebojte se.” The English version uses the language of the angel’s greeting to Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary,” who went to Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning.

Children’s Sermon and Blessing
We welcome our children every Sunday to the front chancel steps for an engaging lesson for them. Parents of small children, you are welcome to come down with them if they’re feeling nervous!

Each week, we lovingly dismiss our children to go and encounter God’s word in their worship centers upstairs. We bless them and commission them to go and listen to God’s word!

Prayer for Illumination
The Bible is an ancient book that had to be copied, bound, and translated into English so that we might read what it says. We recognize that sometimes it is hard to know how to understand these ancient words, but we believe that God’s Spirit is at work in our hearts to make Scripture come alive for us. We pray this special prayer and ask God’s Spirit to illumine our hearts and minds so that we might understand what we are reading.

First Readings During Easter
During Easter and the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost, there are not any Old Testament lessons assigned by the lectionary. Instead, we hear portions of the book called “Acts of the Apostles” (or “Acts”) as we hear how the news of Jesus’ resurrection spread.

Children’s Sermon and Blessing

People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

The Lord be with you! *And also with you!*

May the Word of God grow in your hearts! *Thanks be to God!*

Go in peace!

Refrain: “Be Not Afraid” (3x)

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Refrain: “Be Not Afraid” (1x)

Second Reading: I Corinthians 15:1-8

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

▲Refrain: “Be Not Afraid” (1x)

▲Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

▲Refrain: “Be Not Afraid” (1x)

Sermon

‘But Mary Stood Weeping’

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak, preaching

I Corinthians, Chapter 15

One of the greatest (and longest!) chapters in the Bible is found at I Corinthians 15, sometimes called “The Resurrection Chapter.” For over 58 verses, St. Paul outlines the importance and impact of Jesus’ resurrection. Today we hear the first eight verses.

John’s Gospel in the Lectionary

The schedule of readings we follow for Sunday worship is called the ‘lectionary.’ It is a three-year cycle and each of the three years has a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke) assigned to it as the main Gospel. But what about John’s Gospel? Well, each year, the preacher has an option to include John’s version of events from time-to-time, usually on major dates of the Christian calendar. Today, though we are in the year of Mark’s Gospel, we are hearing the account of Jesus’ resurrection from the Gospel of John.

“The Day of Resurrection” Hymn

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

The Nicene Creed

We don't typically include the Nicene Creed in our worship services at FPCF, though not because we refute any of its doctrine! Far from it!

As the early churches reflected on the person and identity of Jesus, they began to disagree on a key principle: Was Jesus God? Or was he merely a special person God created? Eventually, the disagreements became sharp and ugly, and a church council had to be called to prayerfully discern what the Scriptures revealed about Jesus. Their work is summarized here in the Nicene Creed and in it, we find a comprehensive list of what it is that we Christians hold to be true about Jesus Christ. What better Sunday is there to reflect on these truths?

Today's Choral Anthem “Ye choirs of new Jerusalem” *Charles Villiers Stanford*

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn,
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,
crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake the imprisoned dead.

Devouring depths of hell their prey
At His command restore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in His Glory now
To Him all power is given;
To Him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and heaven.

While we, His soldiers, praise our King,
His mercy we implore,
Within His palace bright to bring,
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All Glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
While endless ages run.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

▲Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection” (#233)

LANCASHIRE

The Lord's Table

▲Invitation to the Table

▲Affirmation of Christian Faith: “Nicene Creed” (4th c.)

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Offering and Choral Anthem

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God,
creator and ruler of the universe.

For you, Lord, have broken into death's domain
And have liberated us from its lightless cell of despair.

Therefore we joyfully praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever testify to the glory of your name:



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the



pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
He became incarnate for us,
he suffered for us, he died for us, and he was buried for us.
Indeed, he also was made alive for us,
that we might receive the blessed hope of salvation.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation
this grain from the earth and this fruit of the vine
and we present them before you now,
that we might joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service...

The sung responses in today's Lord's Table liturgy are sung to the American folk tune LAND OF REST, a tune made popular in the late 19th century in the Appalachian area of the United States.

Great is the mystery of Christian faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and with your church in all the world.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Breaking of the Bread

▲Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Dismissal

▲Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory” (#238)

JUDAS MACCABEUS

▲Announcements

▲Charge and Blessing

▲Choral Benediction

Messiah, HWV 56: Part II, no. 44. Chorus: “Hallelujah!”

FPCF CHANCEL CHOIR WITH BRASS ENSEMBLE

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,

and of his Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever! King of kings, and Lord of lords!

“Thine Is the Glory”

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel’s oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

“Hallelujah Chorus”

A long-standing Easter tradition at FPCF is to stand at the close of the service and face the Resurrection Window at the rear of the sanctuary as the choir sings the triumphal words of Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus.”

Today’s Postlude

Toccata from *Symphony No. 5*
(Charles-Marie Widor)

Postlude