

**DIALOG AND UNVEILING THE CROSS:** 

Leader: It was still dark when Mary went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away.

People: Help us to also see the stone that has been rolled away.

Leader: Soon others came to the tomb so that they might look inside.

People: Help us to see an empty tomb when we look inside today.

Leader: The disciple who reached the tomb went inside, saw the empty tomb and believed.

People: Help us to believe.

Leader: Jesus came to Mary, calling her by name.

**People: Help us to hear our names being called today.** Leader: Mary announced to the others, "I have seen the Lord."

People: Help us to see you and share with others what we have seen.

(The cross is unveiled.)

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!

BRASS FANFARE: Sue and Matthew Walker, instrumentalists

WELCOME

CELEBRATION SONG: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (music at end of bulletin)

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: They were looking for a dead friend,

All: Mourning a loss, One: Caught up in grief,

All: Worrying about stone-cold tombs.

One: They were prepared for death,

All: But not for life.

One: They were ready for sadness,

All: But not for joy.

One: Yet, Easter turned it around!

All: Turned the world upside down,

One: Set love on the throne, All: Hope on the horizon,

One: Joy in each moment.

All: Easter still turns darkness around,

One: Makes our lives different,

**All: Renews our hope,** One: Fills us with courage,

All: Gives us a new way to live and share.

## WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR EASTER:

C: It is so easy, O God, to expect the worst, to focus on what is dying and not see the life that you provide. Our hearts and minds dwell too often on how our expectations are frustrated rather than on the unexpected ways in which you bring about more than we dare to hope for. Call us to see resurrection all around us and to join in the new reality that you are bringing to the world through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER:

Leader: God, who is gracious, has given us a new day, a fresh start. Leave your doubts and fears behind. Open yourself to God's resurrection power.

## THE EASTER STORY: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

# John 20:1-18

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. So 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and 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. They 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus 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." 'Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

EASTER MESSAGE: "Living Easter" Pastor David School

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Lord of the Dance (music at end of bulletin)

#### THE EASTER PRAYER:

L: Risen Christ, we pray today for all in need of new life, of a fresh start, of your lifegiving energy and love. Today we pray for persons far and near who need your resurrection touch:

(names may be said aloud or remembered silently)

Today we pray for places far and near that need your life-giving energy and love, which need your peace:

(names may be said aloud or remembered silently)

Today we pray for situations far and near that need a fresh start and reconciliation: (names may be said aloud or remembered silently)

Today we give thanks for persons, places and situations where your resurrection power has been at work, with new life, a fresh start and love:

(names may be said aloud or remembered silently)

Today we praise your name, Most High God, and give you thanks for resurrecting Jesus Christ, for not leaving him in the tomb. We give thanks for the ongoing new life and fresh grace that are brought to us continually by your Holy Spirit.

In the name of the risen Christ we pray.

C: Amen.

#### THE EASTER COMMUNION PREFACE:

Leader: It is a long time since last we could share this meal together.

People: The last supper we had with Jesus has meant so much just as the last supper meant so much to the disciples.

Leader: Then came his trials and crucifixion.

People: Separation and sorrow filled the hearts of the twelve and our

hearts over the last year.

Leader: But Jesus gave a promise, he would rise again. Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! And meets us in the meal.

#### THE 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.

SHARING THE MEAL: In Remembrance (music at end of bulletin)

THE BLESSING

#### THE SENDING OUT:

P: You are people of the resurrection, followers of Jesus Christ, who is no longer dead but alive among us. As you go forth, may your lives be the meeting place of Christ for others. **Amen**.

SENDING SONG: My Redeemer Lives (music at end of bulletin)

P: Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



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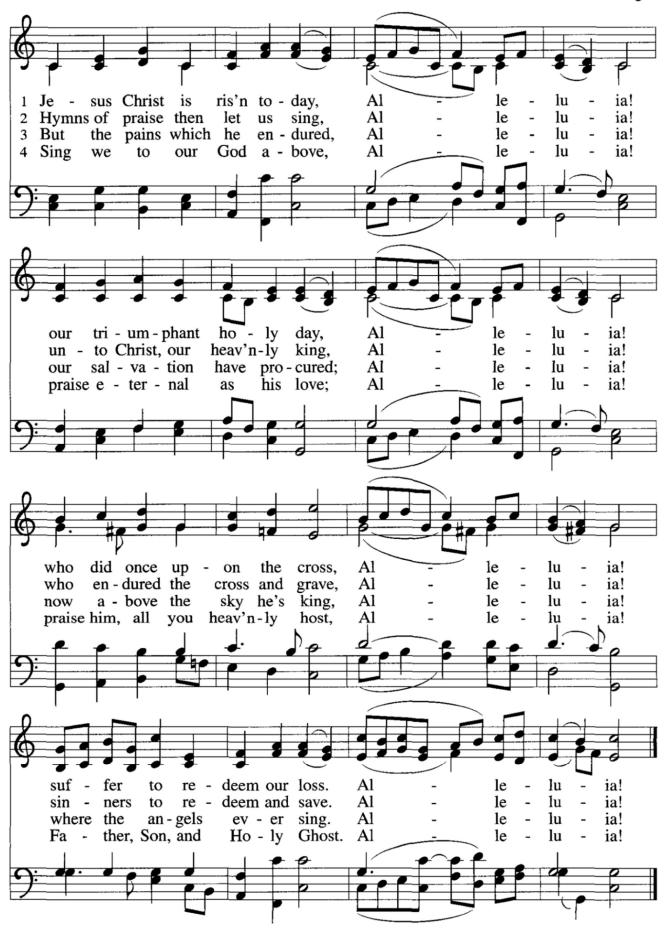
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# Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



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