



Easter
SUNDAY

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church – Online Service
Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Congregational responses indicated in bold.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing.

You lift all things out of the dust,
you breathe love into every cell,
you call us into communion with you,
and you claim victory over death.

Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

“JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY”

Jes-us Christ is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
our tri-um-phant ho-ly day, Al-le-lu-ia!
who did once, up-on the cross, Al-le-lu-ia!
suf-fer to re-deem our loss, Al-le-lu-ia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
un-to Christ, our heav-en-ly King, Al-le-lu-ia!
who en-dured the cross and grave, Al-le-lu-ia!
sin-ners to re-deem and save, Al-le-lu-ia!

*But the pains which he en-dured, Al-le-lu-ia!
our sal-va-tion have pro-cured. Al-le-lu-ia!
Now a-bove the sky he's king, Al-le-lu-ia!
where the an-gels ev-er sing, Al-le-lu-ia!*

*Sing we to our God a-bove, Al-le-lu-ia!
praise e-ter-nal as God's love, Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise our God, ye heav-en-ly host, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost, Al-le-lu-ia!*

Call to Confession

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us
that we, too, have been given new life.

Let us repent of our sin before God and one another,
certain of God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession

**All-knowing, all-powerful God,
we confess that, even on this most holy day,
we are unable to believe in the victory over death
shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life
but also for faith, hope, and love.**

**Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors
and your stunning presence throughout the ages,
we would be lost.**

**Forgive us and transform us,
that in every way our work and prayer will
make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.**

Sung Response

“LORD, HAVE MERCY”

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors,
the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation.
You shall not die but live.

The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song.
I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God,
who lives and reigns as Mother of us all, now and forever.

Sung Response

“ALLELUIA!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Prayer for Illumination

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God,
through the work of your Holy Spirit,
that in the hearing of your Word
we may receive new life. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Prophet Isaiah 25:6-9 (*Praise for Deliverance from Oppression*)
Gospel Mark 16:1-8 (*The Resurrection of Jesus*)

Sermon

“How Will You Tell the Story?”
The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

The Apostles' Creed (*Traditional*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People

*“With the words “God in your mercy”,
you are invited to respond “hear our prayer.”*

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need,
saying, God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With joy, we pray for all Christian assemblies
united this morning at the empty tomb.

Help us see you, O God,
in those we do not expect to encounter
and remove all fear from our hearts.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

With humility, we pray for this planet, our home.

Heal what we have scarred and broken;
renew the face of the Earth from north to south,
from east to west
so that your creation may speak to us of your goodness.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

With hope and love, we pray for the nations of the world,
especially those places overwhelmed by war and conflict.

By the light of the resurrection, destroy the shroud
that is cast over all who live under dictatorship,
in the clutches of propagandists, and in ignorance.

Bless peacemakers who work to bring justice
to their country, city, village, and household.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

With compassion, wipe away the tears of all who weep.

Give us the spiritual tools we need
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
and comfort those who are in any trouble.

Watch over the vulnerable and sick.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

With fondness, we remember those who saw our risen Lord
and witnessed his resurrection so that we might have faith.

May their words and deeds inspire us
to sing our “Alleluia!” again and again.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Passing from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom,
from death to life, we commend to you,
gracious and ever-living God, all for whom we pray.

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Offering Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant,
we cannot measure them all.
You give us life itself
and the power to befriend our companions in this world.
Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need,
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn **“CHRIST IS RISEN! SHOUT HOSANNA!”**

*Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na!
Cel-e-brate this day of days!
Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der:
all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing,
see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing
bring a taste of love un-known.*

*Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its
from the cav-erns of de-spair.
Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion,
not a ser-vant, but a friend.
Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion.
Joy and peace shall nev-er end.*

*Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en
nev-er-more shall be the same.
Break the bread of new cre-a-tion
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, de-mon-ic cho-rus:
'Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!'
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Ho-san-na ev-ery-one!*

Benediction

Go from here renewed and strong,
knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty, and present.
Look for the blessings that await you this week.
Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate.
Tell the story of hope.

Sung Response

“BE NOT AFRAID”

*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!*

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Text: Stanzas 1-3, Lyra Davidica, 1708;
stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708;
adapt. from The Compleat Psalmodist, 1749

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984
Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Alleluia!”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Fintan O’Carroll, 1981; harm. Christopher Walker, 1985
Music © 1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker
(Published by OCP)

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Text: Brian Wren, 1984

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824;
adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.
Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé
(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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