

The Kingdom of God

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, April 24, 2022)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **Easter Festival Overture** Rimsky Korsakov
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Danny Williams, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

Alleluia! He is alive!

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

Alleluia! He is alive!

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

Alleluia! He is alive! Let us worship the risen Lord.

Opening Hymn: "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Chris is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us, Sing Hosanna everyone!

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

When we keep our fears and faults hidden within, we can't be healed and receive new life. Therefore, let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace. Let us pray together. . .

Prayer of Confession

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and grant us faith in the power of mercy. When we are afraid to stand up for the weak, forgive us and make us strong. When we are afraid to live in the power of your resurrection, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Christ comes with healing into our locked places of hurt and fear, resurrecting our spirits, opening to us the truth, and breathing into us new life. Friends, receive the gift of Christ's mercy.

As God's forgiven people, we receive life, peace, and joy in place of our fear. Alleluia! Amen.

Response: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to His name. (Refrain only)

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, as we bow our heads beneath the cross, pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might trust in your power to bring peace out of tragedy, salvation out of suffering, victory out of defeat, life out of death. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24: 36-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Dead Man Down Under

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to His name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. (Refrain)
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)
3. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. (Refrain)
4. Come let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Savior. (Refrain)

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

God gives new life to all that is, including us and all that sustains us. So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of thanksgiving, praising the God who loves us and gives us peace. Please pray with me our Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways,
From pole to pole that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Benediction

Postlude:

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mykhailo Verbytsky

"Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished"

The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished. Luck will still smile on us Ukrainians. Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine, and we, too, we'll live happily in our land. We'll not spare our souls or bodies to get freedom and we'll prove that we are of Kosak kin.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,

David Maley, piano, Danny Williams, liturgist, and

Whitney Roberts, technology team