Our Mission: To embody God’s love for all by living an active faith in service to others.

We Gather to Affirm God’s Presence in Our Lives

May the God we sing to, pray to, and speak to throughout the day bless you and keep you safe.

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Introit: Christ Is Arisen, Kenneth Jennings

Call to Worship

L: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
All: Christ is risen, Alleluia!
L: Exult, all creation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor!
All: Christ is risen. Alleluia!
L: God is our strength and our might and has become our salvation.
All: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone
L: This is God’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes
All: This is the day God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it
[adapted from Psalm 118]

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today, NCH 233

Scripture Reading
Luke 23
The Death of Jesus

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land[1] until three in the afternoon, 45 while the sun’s light failed,[2] and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. 47 When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.”[3] 48 And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. 49 But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.
The Burial of Jesus

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Resurrection of Jesus

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Hymn to Christ the Light

Zebulon M. Highben

OFFERING

SERMON

No ifs and 6 buts

HYMN

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

verses 1,3 NCH 241

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ’s suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ’s resurrection, and awaiting Christ’s return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.
Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer who taught us to pray:

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

HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

verses 1-3 NCH 238

BENEDICTION

Christ is Arisen

Kenneth Jennings

PRAYER

Almighty God, who in Your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of His presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by His risen life and serve You continually in righteousness and truth: through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY

Ministers: All of Us
Pastor: Alan McNamara
Organist: Travis Erikson
Singers: Grace Klonoski, Ashley Kelly, Brian Kowalski
Liturgist: John Omerod
Video: Colleen Bredeson
Audio: Tom Spielman
 Sexton: Tom Spielman

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5–8; 1 Cor. 15:20–22; 54–57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
2 Let the Victor’s people sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
3 Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Following our exalted Head, Al-le-lu-ia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your victory, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
God has opened paradise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!
Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

1 Joy dawning again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with bright array; For when the Apostles hid in fear, the Risen Christ to them appeared.

2 O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One, come take our hearts to be your own, That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise. death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield.

3 O Sovereign One, with us abide in this our joyful Easter-tide; From every weapon
Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crowe, 1928; alt.

Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would never wake a - gain,
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ’s warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain

Love is come a - gain like wheat that rises green.