

The Order of Worship

*Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer
upon entering the Sanctuary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*PRELUDE "Toccata For A Celebration" ... Gene Clark

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP "Oh, the Glory of Your Presence" Choir and Congregation

"Oh, the glory of Your presence, We, Your temple, give You reverence.
Come and rise to Your rest and be blest by our praise as we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence now fills this place."

*GREETING

Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Death has been swallowed in victory!
The grave has lost its sting!
Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
We are alive in Christ! Glory to God! Alleluia!¹

*INVOCATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us pray . . .

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 302 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

CHORAL PROCLAMATION "Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful" ... John Purifoy

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, Hymnal No. 880

"The Nicene Creed"

*THE GLORIA PATRI, Hymnal 70

"Glory Be to the Father"

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray:

O God, the Giver of Life:

We come with joyous and grateful hearts on this Easter morning. We rejoice that your gifts of life have victoriously overcome the domains of darkness and death. All creation receives your mantle of salvation in Jesus Christ. Now, through your gift of new life we bring forth our gifts so that your message of new life can be proclaimed to all your creation and deeds of faithfulness can be performed throughout the world. We praise you, O God, and give thanks for the abundant life you have given to us. Amen.²

OFFERTORY "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" ... George F. Handel

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

EPISTLE LESSON Acts 10:34-43

THE ANTHEM "Easter Morning Medley" ... Gary Lanier

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON "An Encounter with the Risen Christ"

*HYMN NO. 304 "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

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