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Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

EVERYTHING [IN] BETWEEN

In the Direction of Hope

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—
I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE

Thine Is the Glory

arr. by Karl Osterland

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

My dear friends,
we have known grief.
We have known loss.
We have known the long road, tired and winding.
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.
But today—

today we know hope.

Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones,
that today is a new day.

Alleluia! Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Hymnal, No. 245

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

Forgive us, God,

when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.

Forgive us, God,

when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.

Forgive us, God,

when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

(Time of silence for reflection)

Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving,

when we're shouting and when we're silent,

when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.

**God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days,
and every day in between.**

Thanks be to God for this good news!

Alleluia! Amen.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 581

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Will Farris

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 895

Acts 10:34-43

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

ANTHEM

Fanfare for the Risen Christ

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:1-12

Page No. 860

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Everything In Between: Grief & Hope

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

In the Bulb there is a Flower

Hymnal, No. 250

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the dark before dawn,

we believe that God is alive.

In the midst of our grief,

we believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
we believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
and no violence could keep God's love from us.
So today we sing,
Alleluia!
For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
hope lives.
Christ has died,
and Christ has also risen.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ...God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, No. 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Thine is the Glory Hymnal, No. 238

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE Toccata on All Creatures of Our God and King Diane Bish

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 27: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for April are socks and deodorant. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

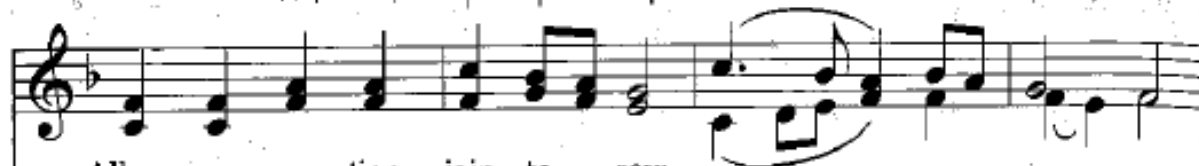
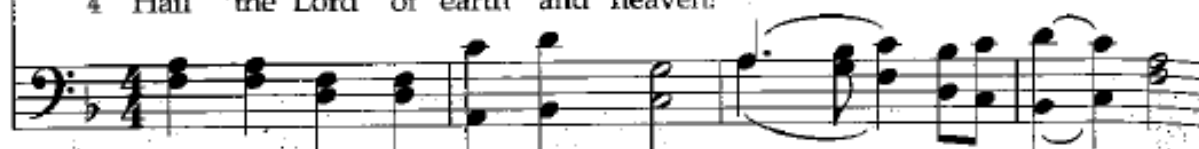
Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!



- 1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
- 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done,
- 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
- 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Al - le - lu - ia!



All cre - a - tion, join to say:
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Praise to you by both be given,

Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Death in vain for - bids him rise,
Je - sus died, our souls to save,
Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Al - le - lu - ia!



In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D)

(Em)



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7)

(D)

C7

F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7)

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(F#)

(Bm)

F7

Bb

Gm

F

Dm

Gm

A

Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)

Bb

Gm

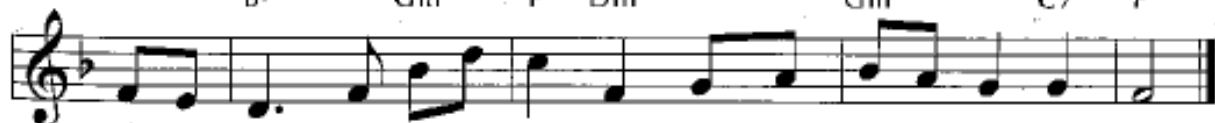
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Dm

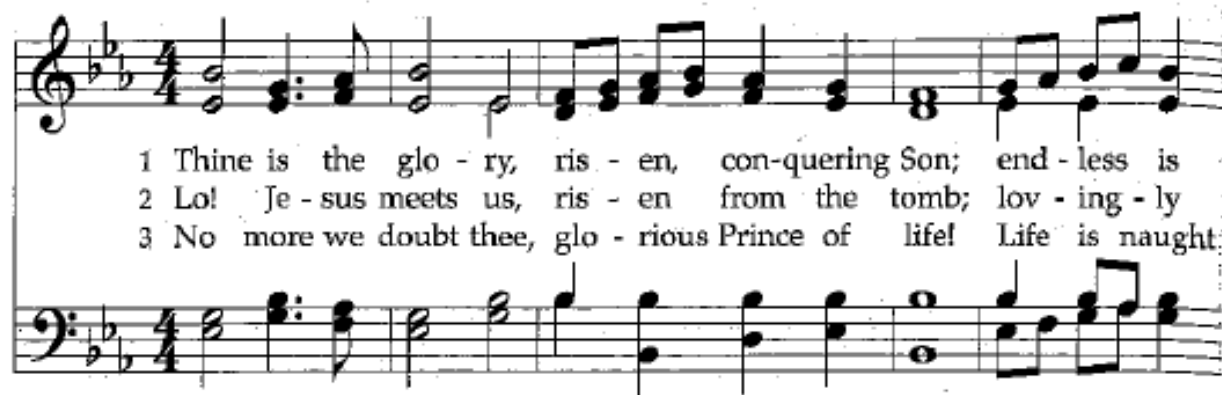
Gm

C7

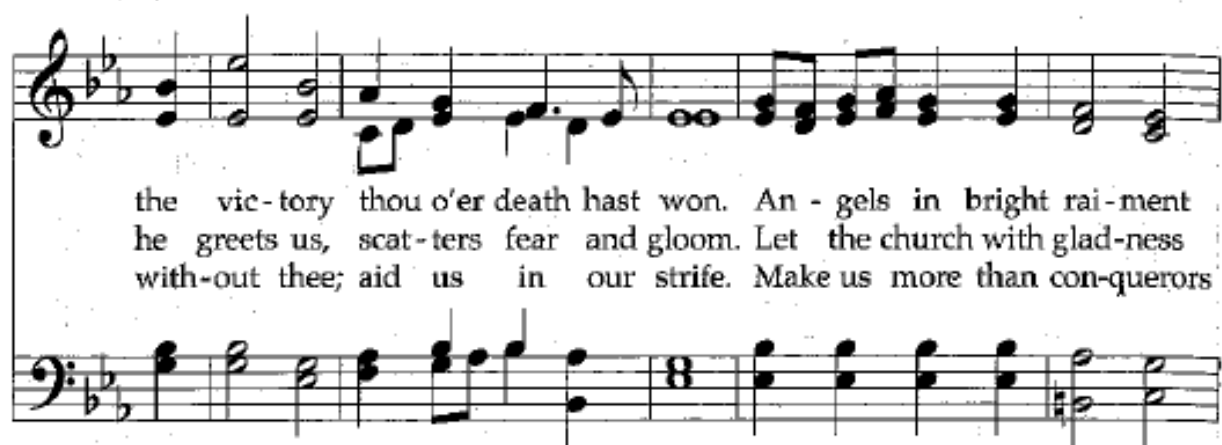
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un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

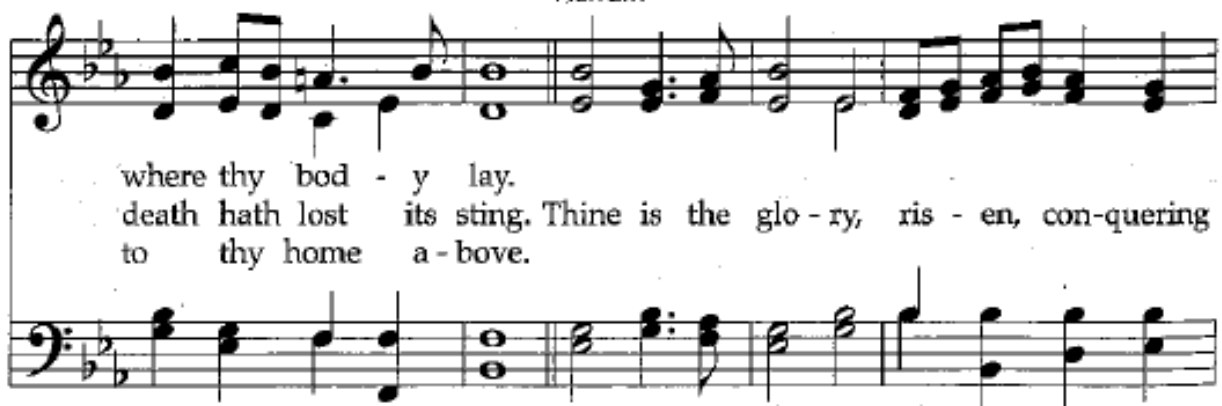


the vic-tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai-ment
 he greets us, scat-ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad-ness
 with-out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing
 to thy home a - bove.