



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

**Bright Sunday**

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Chuckling, chortling God,  
who lifts our hearts when we feel most down,  
who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair's gloom,  
who surprises us with wonder and awe,  
enter into our hearts this morning, we pray.  
Open our minds to the endless possibilities  
you create for growing closer to you with a giggle.  
Open our eyes to your presence in all things,  
allowing us to respond in joy. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on All Things Bright and Beautiful

Leonard Howe

## BRINGING THE LIGHT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from "Come to the Easter Party" by Ann Weems

I think on Easter mornings we should throw confetti in church!

No?

What about a little fanfare? A deafening drum roll?

A three-minute standing ovation?

What? Have we had the drums beaten out of us?

That we in the celebrative community can't really  
get excited about God's aliveness?

About God's love given to us unconditionally?

Have we given Easter to the lily bearers,  
the bunny rabbits, the patent leather shoes?

Let's face it: we live as though we don't believe in Easter . . .

**Easter scares us**

**Because we're the people who can't believe**

**That God gives us abundant Life;**

**We think we have to earn it.**

In our pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps society it's hard to remember  
that God doesn't buy the self-made man.

So we in the church spend our lives showing God

what good people we are,

What achievers we are, how much we deserve God's love.

**We want to pay our own way,**

**But Easter says it's already been paid!**

Easter says, no matter how prodigal, we can go home again!

**So come to the Easter party!**

Let's celebrate that amazing grace

that in Christ's resurrection

we are still loved even at our most outrageous.

**The Lord has given us the music;**

**all we need do is dance it!**

**Come to the Easter party!**

\*SONG OF PRAISE

I Danced in the Morning

Hymnal, No. 157

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us pray together.

God of wonder, sometimes we forget to be surprised.

**Forgive us for the times when our busyness  
gets in the way of noticing your presence.**

**Forgive us for the times when our familiarity with your age-old story  
dulls our ability to marvel.**

**Forgive the ways we pack away curiosity,  
leaving questions and wonder to children.**

**Open our eyes to your works —**

**the bold and quiet, strange and strong, beautiful and  
befuddling.**

**Stir our desire to celebrate with you and our neighbors.**

Unzip our tight-lipped ways that we might proclaim  
in head-shaking wonder, and bewildered praise:

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

*(time for silent reflection)*

\*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all!

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World with-out end, with-out end. Amen (x3)  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Julie Forthman

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 16, CEV

I say "Only you are my Lord!  
Every good thing I have is a gift from you."

**Alleluia!**

Your people are wonderful,  
and they make me happy,

**Alleluia!**

You, Lord, are all I want!  
You are my choice,  
and you keep me safe.  
You make my life pleasant,  
and my future is bright.

**Alleluia!**

I praise you, Lord, for being my guide.  
Even in the darkest night,  
your teachings fill my mind.  
I will always look to you.

**Alleluia!**

You won't leave me in the grave  
or let my body decay.

**Alleluia!**

You have shown me the path to life,  
and you make me glad by being near to me.  
Sitting at your right side,  
I will always be joyful.

**Alleluia!**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Living Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

Page No. 883

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Jesus Explains the Joke

RESPONSE

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Verse 1

Hymnal, No. 248

SCRIPTURE READING

John 21:1-14

Page No. 883

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

You Bring the Snacks

RESPONSE

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Verse 2

Hymnal, No. 248

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:3-49

Page No. 860

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Resurrection Colored Glasses

RESPONSE

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Verse 3

Hymnal, No. 248

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Study Catechism  
Confirmation Version, Questions 8, 65,66

How do you understand the love and power of God?

**Through Jesus Christ. In his life of compassion, his death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, I see how vast is God's love for the world — a love that is ready to suffer for our sakes, yet so strong that nothing will prevail against it.**

What do you mean when you speak of "the resurrection of the body"?

**Because Christ lives, we will live also. Death is not the end of human life. The whole person, body and soul, will be raised from death to eternal life with God.**

What do you affirm when you speak of "the life everlasting"?

**God does not will to be God without us, but instead grants to us creatures — fallen and mortal as we are — eternal life. Communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Hymnal, page 35

Response: ... Christ, you are our peace! **Hear our alleluia!**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

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

THE OFFERING  
OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY                                      God of All Living                                      Hymnal, No. 713 vs 4  
God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
Using us gently and making us one.

\*DEDICATION PRAYER

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG                      Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!                      Hymnal, No. 239

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Go now, trusting that our persistent God  
who showed up to Christ's followers again and again  
shows up for you too.

Go,  
with hearts open to the possibility of God's surprises,  
with the assurance that Christ is ever seeking to be known by you,  
with a spirit of hospitality to break bread and share time,  
with a commitment to witness to the love, mystery, and power of God  
in the raising of your voice and the sharing of your life.

**Go, trusting that God — creator, redeemer, sustainer,  
goes before us and beside us always. Alleluia!**

\*POSTLUDE                                      Easter Alleluia                                      Aloÿs Ottenwalder

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

**This order of** worship is provided by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF), which seeks, equips, and supports Christian leaders. Learn more about at [www.opsf-omaha.org](http://www.opsf-omaha.org).

**Today's bulletin art** is an adaptation of *Duccio di Buoninsegna – The Maesta Altarpiece, The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, 1308* (Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons)

**The Call to Worship**, "Come to the Easter Party," by Ann Weems, appears in the book *Reaching for Rainbows: Resources for Creative Worship*, Westminster John Knox Pres, 1980.

The Sunday after Easter is also known as **Bright Sunday**, *New Sunday*, and *Holy Humor Sunday*. Early church theologians like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John of Chrysostom reflected on the idea that through the resurrection, God played the ultimate joke on the devil. Bright Sunday serves as a day of joy and laughter with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Some church goers play practical jokes on each other, drench each other with water, tell jokes, and dance in celebration, all as part of "Risus paschalis — the Easter laugh."

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 23 : Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for April **are coffee and sugar. 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.

# 157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The  
4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)  
Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and  
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 Bb F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
came with me and the dance went on.  
left me there on a cross to die.  
I am the dance and I still go on.  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)  
*Refrain* Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

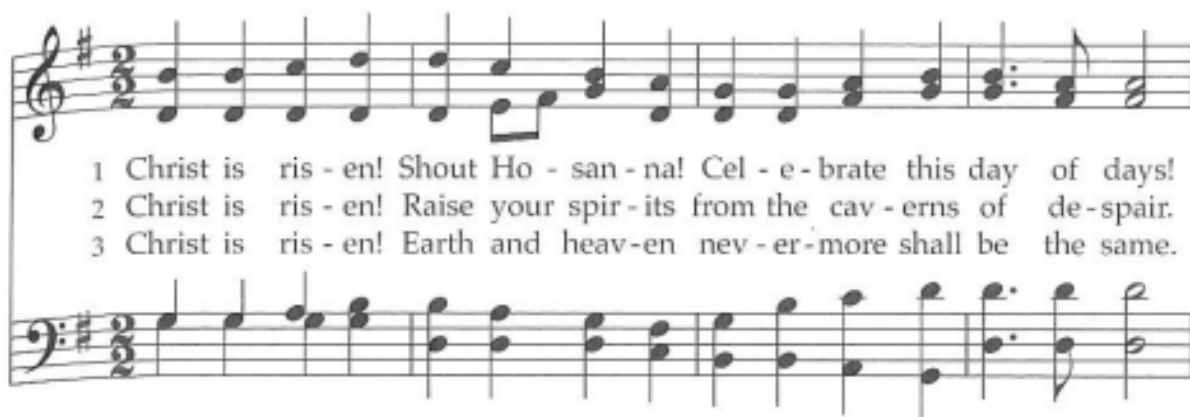
(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)  
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

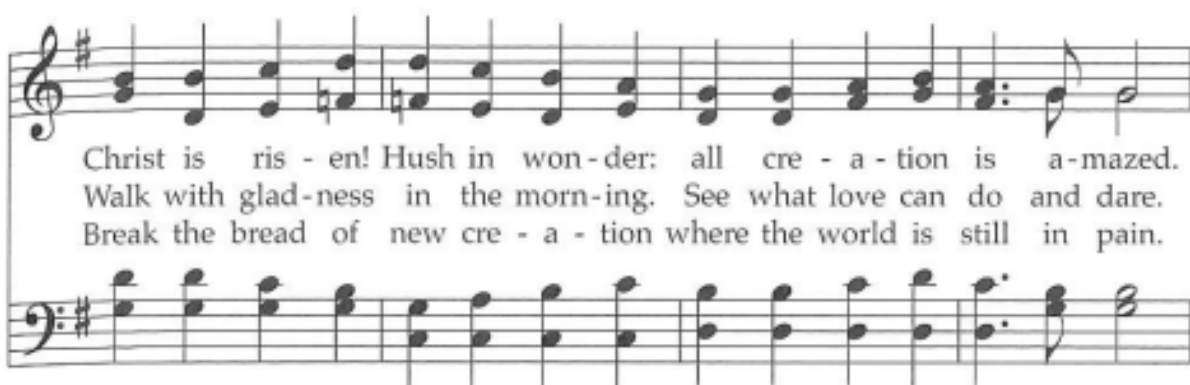
(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 F Bb F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

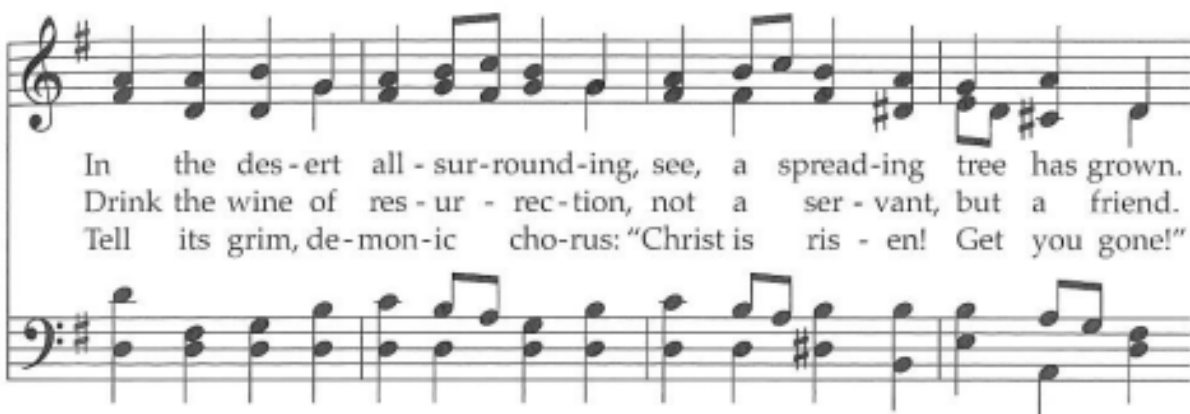
# Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248



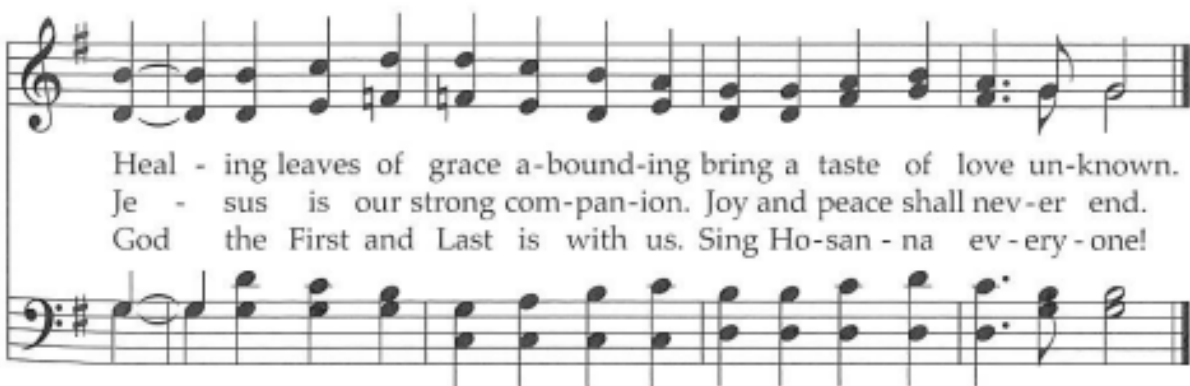
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



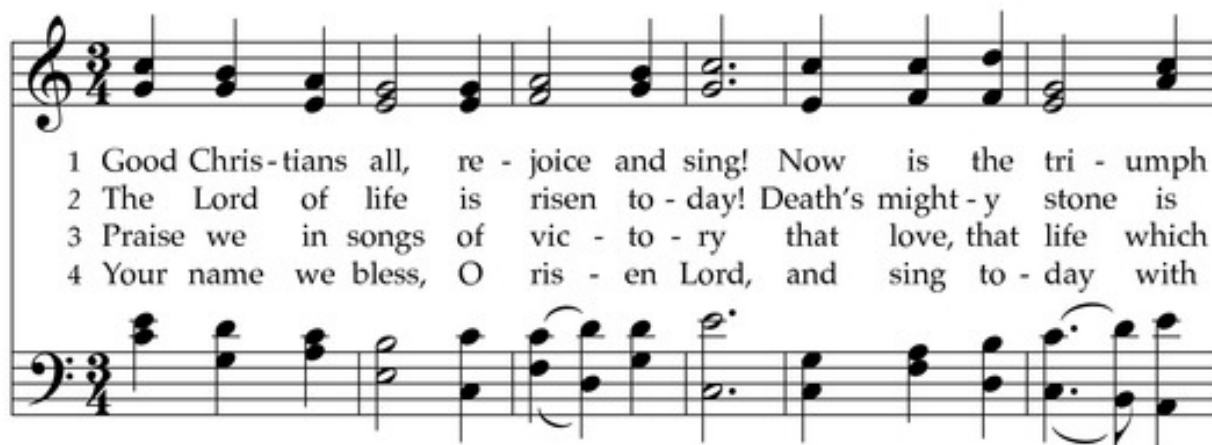
In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



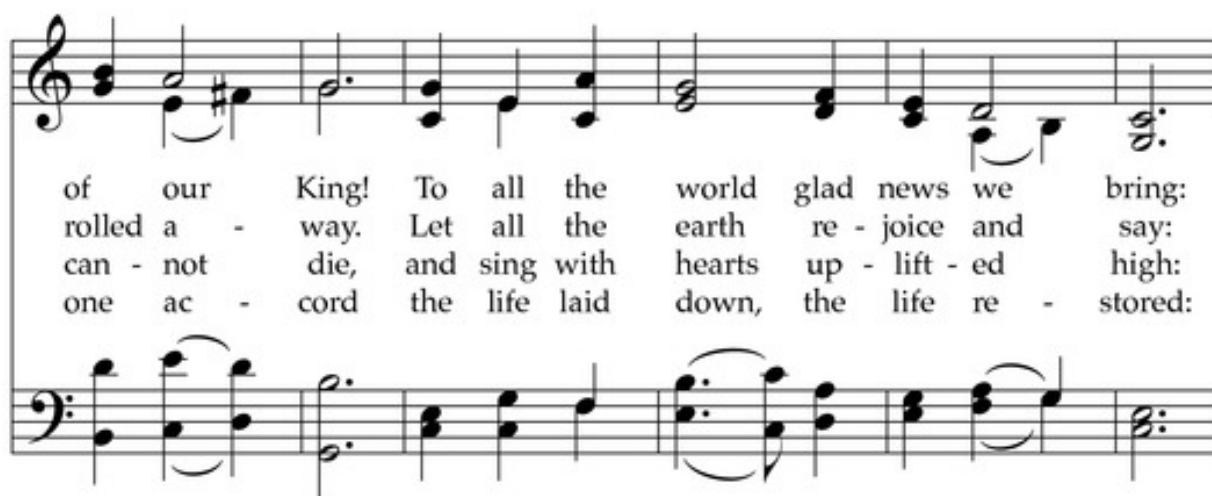
Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!



# Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239



1 Good Chris-tians all, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph  
2 The Lord of life is risen to-day! Death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, and sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a-way. Let all the earth re-joice and say:  
can-not die, and sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:  
one ac-cord the life laid down, the life re-stored:



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