

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

+ **EASTER LITANY** ~ written by Ann Siddall,

We are not eye-witnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples;
we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation;
we have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day,
or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power during twenty centuries of
change and conflict.

We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
Today we gather, not in the way we like, but in the way we can in celebration and in awe.
What you are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world.
Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, to the
uncontrollable power of God.
It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.

+ **OPENING SONG** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!* #369

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

**Receive our unending love and devotion as we celebrate today this amazing gift of
your love. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.;
 Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
 7777 and alleluias

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ GREET THE GOSPEL *Be Not Afraid* #388

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ has risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ has risen, alleluia!

+ GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

MESSAGE

MUSIC MINISTRY

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS & PRAYERS

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

— adapted from Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell,

Loving God,

We confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world.

We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.

Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.

Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and

reconciliation.

You are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

+ **BLESSING**

+ **SENDING SONG**

Thine Is The Glory

#376

+ **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Let us share the peace as we depart

Thine Is the Glory

376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

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-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
 Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

JUDAS MACCABAEUS
 55 65 65 65 and refrain