

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

Organ Prelude: "Now is Christ Arisen" fugue with Easter carol

Bruce Nasmith

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so they might go and anoint Jesus' body... buried in the tomb."

But they found the tomb open, his body missing and a man there who told them Jesus had risen and he would meet them and the other disciples when they returned to Galilee. "Go and tell the others," he tells them.

But how can they believe the words of a man they've never seen before and how can they believe Jesus' body is not just stolen but risen from the dead? In fact, they are so terrified, they flee the tomb and tell no one anything, for fear and shock has overwhelmed them. (Based on Mark 16:1-8)

We come to worship Easter Sunday morning, seeking the risen Christ, seeking for resurrection in the face of disappointment, conflict, distress, frustration, loss, grief and despair.

Will we find new faith and hope and love to meet us in this time of our lives? Will we meet the risen Christ?

Open our hearts, O God, we are ready to see and believe.

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen Indeed!** Hallelujah!

Let us worship God together!

Hymn: "Jesus Christ is risen today"

No. 243

soloists Erin Stone and Shaun Alphonso with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day,
hallelujah!
who did once upon the cross hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. hallelujah!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing
Hallelujah!
unto Christ our heavenly King, Hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave,
Hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

3. But the pains which he endured,
Hallelujah!
our salvation have procured;
Hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, Hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

4. Sing we to our God above Hallelujah!
praise eternal as his love;
Hallelujah!
praise him, all ye heavenly host, Hallelujah!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Special Music: "The trumpet shall sound"

from Messiah by G. F. Handel

soloist Chris Tanaka-Mann with accompaniment by Bruce Nasmith

Children's Theme for Church School

Hymn: "The strife is o'er"

No. 257

soloists Erin Stone and Shaun Alphonso with organist Bruce Nasmith

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Hallelujah!

2. Death's mightiest powers
have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Hallelujah!

3. The three sad days
have quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Hallelujah!

4. Lord, from your wounds
God's blessings spring:
free us, we pray, from death's dread sting
that we may live, and ever sing:
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah?

Scripture Readings: Mark 16: 1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: EXPERIENCING EASTER WHEN THERE'S NO HAPPY ENDING Dr. Harris

Special Music: "I know that my Redeemer liveth" from Messiah by G. F. Handel
soloist Anna Bateman with accompaniment by Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Thine be the glory" No. 258
soloists Anna Bateman and Chris Tanaka-Mann with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering son:
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes,
where thy body lay.

2. Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

3. No more we doubt thee,
glorious prince of life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.

Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Toccata from Symphony no. 5

Widor

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