



**CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20, 2025**

REFLECTION

Dawn alone stood witness
when the weighty stone
was heaved aside.
Then came Mary Magdalene-
crept in,
stumbled out again,
her stare vacant
as the grave,
her loved one missing.
No wonder tears flooded
the banks of her eyes.
"Why do you weep, child?"
a stranger whispered-
the gardener, she thought.
She struggled for air,
wove her worry
into words,
"Sir, tell me
if you know where
they have laid him."
He wrinkled his
thorn-pierced brow
and sighed,
"Dearest Mary."
She knew that voice,
those eyes.
"Master?
Is it you?"

-Nikki Grimes, "Morning Mystery" in *At Jerusalem's Gate: Poems of Easter, 2005*

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ORDER OF WORSHIP | APRIL 20, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN LOVE

The prelude is a call for personal preparation for the worship of God.

Prelude "The Strife Is O'er" | Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer
"Rigaudon" | André Campra, arr. Virgil Fox
"Fanfare" | Healy Willan
"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" | David Cherwien

Introit "Easter Introit" | Stanley R. McDaniel

One: Christ is risen!
Many: **He is risen indeed!**
Choir: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Votum, Sentences, Salutation

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Many: **Amen.**
One: This is the good news: the grave is empty; Christ is risen!
Many: **Alleluia!**
One: This is the good news: the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.
Many: **Alleluia!**
One: This is the good news: once we were not a people; now we are God's people!
Many: **Alleluia!**
One: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the
faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings
of the earth.
Many: **Amen.**

***Processional Hymn** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" | 123

***Easter Proclamation** Acts 10:34-43 (page 895)
One: The Word of the Lord.
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

One: God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

Many: **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive our dread of dying, our hopelessness, and set us free for the victory of Jesus Christ, who was dead but lives among us. Help us trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Listen, church: God, who raised Jesus from the dead, has not given us over to death.

Many: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***Sung Response**

"We Know That Christ Is Raised" | 495

***Peace**

One: The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

LISTENING IN EXPECTATION

Children's Moment

One: Congregation, what is your prayer for these children?

Many: **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!**

***Hymn**

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" | 104

***Easter Gospel**

John 20:1-18 (page 882)

One: The Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Rolling Stones"

Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

Silence for Reflection

***Hymn**

"Christ Is Alive!" | 108

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Apostle's Creed

Many:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

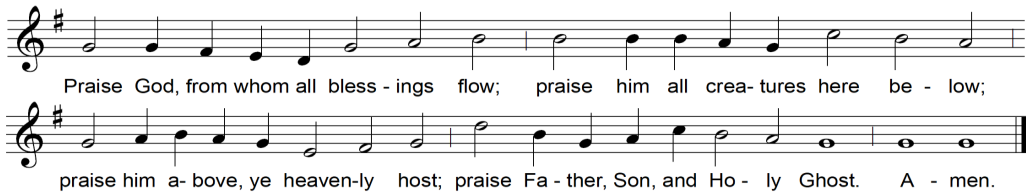
"Easter Anthem" | William Billings

*The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!
Now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the first fruit of them that slept.*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.
And did he rise? Did he rise? Hear it, ye nations! hear it O ye dead!
He rose, he rose, he rose, he rose, He burst the bars of death,
and triumphed o'er the grave.*

*Then, then I rose, then first humanity triumphant
past the crystal ports of light, and seized eternal youth.
Men all immortal hail, hail, heaven, all lavish of strange gifts to man,
thine's all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.*

*Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him all crea - tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

During the prayers each week, we remember our neighboring faith communities and their leaders. Today we are praying the staff and congregation of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

During the prayer:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayer.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

DEPARTING IN JOY

*Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory" | see end of order

(During the singing of the hymn, the congregation is invited up to the chancel to join the choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus; music scores will be provided.)

*Congregational Choir

"Hallelujah Chorus" | G. F. Handel

*Charge

One: Whoever you are, wherever you go in God's wide world,
Whatever happens to you of good or ill, always remember that. . .

Many: Jesus is Lord!

One: And now live this day and always for Christ Jesus
because the Risen Christ lives in you.

Many: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Postlude

"Toccata from the 5th Organ Symphony" | Charles Marie Widor

The Flowering of the Cross

(Please join us outside the main sanctuary entrance, on College Avenue, for the Flowering of the Cross, an ancient Christian tradition. Flowers will be made available in the narthex. After participating, kindly return to the atrium for coffee and other refreshments. He who was dead has come back to life! Happy Easter!)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt

Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han

Chancel Choir

Crucifer: Anya Bailey

Acolyte: Ben Hoezee

Liturgist: Rev. Matt Shults

First Lesson Reader: Rev. Anne Troost

Preacher: Rev. Steven D. Pierce

Offertory Prayer: Paul Bukaweski

Video Tech: Chris Witmer

Sound Tech: Tom Smith

"THINE IS THE GLORY"

E^b B^b E^b B^b E^b

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing 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-

Fm B^bsus B^b7 E^b B^o7 Cm

vic - tory 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-querors,

Fm G Cm F7 Gm

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

F7 B^b Refrain E^b B^b E^b B^b

bod - y lay.
 lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en con-quer-ing Son;
 home a - bove.

E^b Fm B^bsus B^b7 E^b

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sincerest thanks for the generosity of those who contributed to the beauty of our Sanctuary this day with the purchase of Easter Flowers. Please take your plant(s) home following today's worship service. Today's lilies honor those saints who have gone on before us and those who are living but are unable to worship with us in person.

GIVEN BY

Brian, Jennifer, Emma & Owen Andrew

The Bailey Family

David & Ruth Brouwer

Paul Bukaweski & Steve Timmer

Willa Brown

Mark & Sally Bulthuis

Carol & Ellen Bylisma

Becky & Terry DeVries

Mary Gerbens

Ingrid Gerger

The Hager Family

Martha Norden Harvey

Tim, Heather, Lauren & Ben Hoezee

Virginia Hoezee

Sue Karsen

Don Keegstra

The Keizer Family

The McWilliams Family

Gary & Faye Myers

Bea Nagel

Nancy & John Norden

Fred & Millie Overeem

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Peter & Karen Payette

Larry Gerbens

Al & Phyllis Brouwer; Irv & Norma Lemmen

John & Kathy Timmer; Ellen Bukaweski

George Brown Jr.

Our Parents

Peter Bylisma

Helen & Don Glasser

Larry Gerbens

Ed Gerger

Jim & Marge Hager; Bob & Betty DeYoung;
Tim Hager

My father, The Rev. Russell L. Norden

Our parents & grandparents

Edward Hoezee

Jim Karsen; John Miller

Mary E. & Susan M. Keegstra

Tom Keizer

Jim Riekse, Jr.; Jim & Helena Riekse

Harvey & Ella DeGood, Maynard & Evelyn Myers,
Patricia Maye Dickinson; Harvey Jay DeGood

Clara, John Nagel & Marty Nagel

Jim Sr. & Helena Riekse;
Marshall & Pat Norden;
Jim Riekse Jr.

Marion & Anna Chipman
Fred & Lucy Overeem

Helen E. Phillips

Steve & Monica Pierce

Donna Marie Post

The Shults Family

Kathy Stewart

The Troost Family

Patsy & Paul Troost

The Witmer Family

David Wright

Barb & Bill, Mom & Dad

Our grandparents

Dianne Peters Bradt

Sierra Zylstra & our grandparents

My grandmothers, Hilda Trudgeon
& Sarah Wright

Jean & Paul Troost

Elke Walsworth

Martin & Nancy Bolt

Dan Dixon; J.O. Wright & Sybil Wright

GIVEN BY

The Albertsons

The Bailey Family

Dan Ballast

Paul Bukaweski & Stephen Timmer

Martha Norden Harvey

Bill & Pat Mills

Bea Nagel

Helen E. Phillips

Steve & Monica Pierce

Chris Provost

Jim & Terry Spote

Tim & Dawn Tillema

Jack VanHouten

Burt & Kathy VanderLaan

The Webb family

IN HONOR OF

Our children Landon & Ada

Our parents

My family; Linda and sons Brad & Matt

Our Central family & friends

My parents, Russell & Eleanor Norden, in honor
of their 40 years as RCA missionaries to Japan

In celebration of Easter & our family

My Central Reformed Church family

My nieces, nephews & all their children

In celebration of our parents

My grandma, Dawn Provost

Our grand kids, Campbell & Cade

Our family

My family

Our parents

Ken & Bonnie Noorman & Pam Webb



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Connecting all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service.