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**2023 Worship Resource**

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Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Day) Readings

* [**First Reading** Acts 10:34-43](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-first-reading) [**or** Jeremiah 31:1-6](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-or-alternate-first-reading)
* [**Psalm** 118:1-2, 14-24](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-psalm)
* [**Second Reading** Colossians 3:1-4](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-second-reading) [**or** Acts 10:34-43](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-or-alternate-second-reading)
* [**Gospel** John 20:1-18](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-gospel) [**or** Matthew 28:1-10](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-or-alternate-gospel)

Easter Evening Readings

* [**First Reading** Isaiah 25:6-9](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-first-reading)
* [**Psalm** 114:1-8](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-psalm)
* [**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-second-reading)
* [**Gospel** Luke 24:13-49](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2023/4/9/#rcl-gospel)

Hymns from Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (WJK, 2013)

* 231 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers
* 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
* 239 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!
* 251 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
* 253 Alleluia! Christ is Arisen (¡Alleluia! Cristo resucitó!)
* 257 The Risen Christ

Call to Worship (from Psalm 118)

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

**All: God’s mercy endures forever.**

One: Let Israel now declare,

**All: “God’s mercy endures forever.”**

One: The Lord is my strength and my song;

**All: the Lord has become my salvation.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Call to Confession**

As those who came to the tomb seeking a crucified Jesus only to feel an earthquake and find an empty grave, we come to God seeking, but not sure what we will find. We bring all that we are, all that God has called us to be, and all that we have not yet become,

knowing that God has already redeemed us,

already forgiven us,

and already prepared us for what lies ahead.

As a people to whom God has already provided grace,

let us confess our shortcomings

and give thanks for what God has already done.

**Prayer of Confession (from the 2018 Book of Common Worship, p. 320)**

**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.**

**We overlook the poor and the hungry,** **and pass by those who mourn;**

**we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,** **and indifferent to calls for peace;**

**we despise the weak,**

**and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.**

**Help us to 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.**

**Assurance of Pardon and Passing on the Peace**

The risen Christ stands before us   
having already forgiven us,   
already redeemed us,   
and already set us free   
to be the people God has called us to be.

By the gift of God’s grace,   
we know that we are empowered by the Spirit   
to live as God’s forgiven people,   
called to live as God’s people   
in the power of Christ’s resurrection.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we declare:

**All: We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God.**

One: As God’s people,   
we are set free to share Christ’s resurrected love with all.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please share signs of Christ’s peace with those around you.

**Prayer for Illumination**

O God, whose voice calls us in the thunder,

in the earthquake, and in the fire—

speak to us now in words of Scripture.

Still all voices within us that are not your own.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

open our hearts, our minds, and our souls

to hear what you would have us to hear

and to become the people you would have us be. **Amen**

**Prayers of the People**

Gracious God of all creation,  
God of beginnings and endings,   
God of the past, the present, and the future:

We your people bring ourselves to you—  
our minds, our souls, and our bodies—   
as we once again celebrate the resurrection   
of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Keep us mindful of his sacrifice for us,   
and of our dependence on your grace,   
that we may live our lives in faith  
as your forgiving and forgiven,   
loving and beloved people.

As we celebrate Jesus’ victory over death   
and give thanks for the many blessings   
you have so graciously given us,   
we are also mindful of those in our world  
who struggle in body, mind, and spirit.

[Consider inviting members of the congregation to name those people and situations for which they pray]

For those experiencing the brutality of war . . .   
 **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those fleeing their homes in search of safety and security . . .  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing homelessness and poverty . . .  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those whose homes have been destroyed   
by natural or human-caused disasters . . .  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those impacted by violence   
in their neighborhoods, their schools, or in their homes . . .  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing mental or physical illness,   
pain, and suffering . . .  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

As the women on that first Easter morning   
went forth from the tomb  
to share the news of Jesus’ rising,   
may we, like them, go and tell   
of your great victory over death.   
May our fervent and heartfelt prayers   
be the starting point for actions  
to address needs in your world   
and to bring your Kin-dom here on earth.   
Use our words, our thoughts, and our actions   
to bring glory to you   
and to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ   
each day of our lives.

This we prayer in Christ’s name. **Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

As the risen Lord invited the women

to see the place where he laid in the tomb

and then to go and tell of his resurrection,

Jesus invites us to come to the table

and see the gifts he has prepared for us.

As people of the resurrection

we come from East, West, South, and North

to celebrate the risen Savior in gifts of bread and wine.

Christ our Passover is resurrected for us:

**All: Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia!**

**The Great Thanksgiving (adapted from the 2018 Book of Common Worship, p. 324-5)**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy   
to give you thanks and praise,

eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

At your word the earth was made

and spun on its course among the planets.   
Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth   
and set us among all your creatures to love and serve you.

When we were unfaithful to you,   
you kept faith with us.

When your people were held captive in Egypt,

you broke the bonds of their oppression,   
brought them through the sea to freedom,   
and made covenant to be their God.

**All: Lead those held captive**

**by poverty, tyranny, racism, and despair**

**to your freedom, your hope, and your peace.**

One: By a pillar of fire

you led your people through the desert

to a land flowing with milk and honey,   
and set before them the way of life.

**All: Lead those who wander in deserts,**

**searching for safety,**

**fleeing violence, oppression, and war**

**into places you have prepared for their care.**

One: You spoke of love and justice in the prophets,   
and in the Word made flesh you lived among us,   
manifesting your glory.

**All: Shatter the chains of systems of injustice that bind your people**

**in cycles of hunger, poverty, abuse, and despair.**

**Raise up prophets among us**

**to lead your people to your promised land.**

Jesus died that we might live,

and is risen to raise all of your people to new life.

Therefore, we praise you,

joining our voices with angels and archangels   
and with all the faithful of every time and place,   
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*The Sanctus may be sung (*GTG *551–609) or spoken (141–42).*

Jesus came bringing healing, mercy, and peace,

but he was wounded, mocked, and scorned.

He came bringing life,

but he was met with violence and death

By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb,   
commanding the gates of hell to be opened.

The one who humbled himself unto death

now lives and rules over all creation.

The one ascended on high is with us always,

as he promised.

*The words of institution (142–43) are included here, if not elsewhere.*

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,   
we take this bread and this wine

from the gifts you have given us,   
and celebrate with joy

the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving   
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,

that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

*The memorial acclamation may be sung (*GTG *551–609) or spoken (143).*

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,   
that the bread we break

and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ

that we may be one with all who share this feast,   
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ’s body for us,

send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

*Intercessions for the church and the world may be included here, if not elsewhere.*

Nourished at this table, O God,

may we know Christ’s redemptive love   
and live a new life in him.

Give us grace to share our bread with the hungry   
and with the hungry of heart.

Keep us faithful in your service   
until Christ comes in final victory,

and we shall feast with all your saints   
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,   
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,

now and forever. **Amen.**

*The Amen may be sung (*GTG *551–609) or spoken.*

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Risen Lord,

you have welcomed your people to your feast

and have fed us in these gifts of bread and wine.

Thank you for nourishing us

and sending us into the world you love so much,

confident of your protection, care, and call.

You are risen from the dead.

Be risen in our hearts as we spread the Good News

of your life and your love. **Amen.**