

Order of Worship

The Resurrection of the Lord

March 29, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude *Ella Combe* arr. Paul Fey

Word and Wonder – A Time for Children & the Young at Heart Sharing the Alleluias

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

In the dark of the early morning, it descended. The very breath of God.

They say the tomb was empty, but we know otherwise.

We cast off our fear and shame.

They say the tomb was empty, but we know otherwise.

We bury our brokenness and pain.

They say the tomb was empty, but we know otherwise.

We forsake our brokenness and grief.

They say the tomb was empty, but we know otherwise.

We leave behind our old ways and old selves.

Forever entombed by Christ the Son who has conquered the grave.

They say the Lord is risen, and we know the good news:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Hymn 232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* *Easter Hymn*

Litany for Easter (Responsive) Rachel Hackelburg
On that first Easter morning, the women were surprised by God. May the same be true for us this morning.

When fear blinds us: **Surprise us with your light.**

When despair empties us: **Surprise us with your hope.**

When doubts overtake us: **Surprise us with your faithfulness.**

When anger consumes us: **Surprise us with your love.**

When words wound us **Surprise us with your mercy.**

When grief oppresses us: **Surprise us with your comfort.**

When sin breaks us: **Surprise us with your grace.**

When death overtakes us: **Surprise us with your life.**

When darkness breaks and the day dawns anew, may we witness the miracle:

Surprise us, O Lord!

Anthem *Early in the Mornin' on Easter Day* Lloyd Larson

Scripture Lesson John 20:1-18 NT p. 114

***Hymn 231** *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers* *Suo Gan*

Sermon *While It Was Still Dark* Rev. Christie Ashton

Interlude *Jupiter Chorale, Op. 32 from The Planets* *Gustav Holst*
Lareeta Ashton, French Horn

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

We believe you cannot whisper alleluia. It is not a soft, quiet sound, but a loud and joyful song.

Alleluia is heaven's word that is never finished and is never resolved, but continues into eternity.

Alleluia is a song that comes after a week of sorrow to remind us that love is not trapped—it cannot be bound, but breaks free from the grave.

Alleluia is the sound life makes when death is conquered when light breaks the darkness and tombstones roll away.

Alleluia is the sound of life of creation, of heaven and earth, of the hills and the valleys, of the trees and the fields, of the towns and the cities, of families and friends, all singing together of the unbelievable news: Jesus is risen and is alive among us!

Alleluia is God's ultimate word, love's loudest song, life's final promise that death is no more, the tomb is empty, Jesus is alive and goes before us and lives between us, around us, through us, in us.

Alleluia! Amen.

***Hymn 233** *The Day of Resurrection!* Lancashire

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)

May the God of resurrection be with you!

And also with you!

This is the day to offer yourselves to God.

We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.

Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life...(prayer continues)

As we pray together the prayer Christ taught us:

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.

The Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn 248** *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* Hymn to Joy

***Charge & Benediction** There! Do you see it? Just up ahead.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Postlude** *Victory* arr. Jacob Webber

What's Happening at Hope?

Thank you! We are so grateful for all the volunteers to help make this Holy Week and Easter special for our congregation and the community. We appreciate the gifts of your time and energy as well as resources. A special thank you to our Girl Scout troop (Troup 10971) for stuffing all the Easter eggs for this morning's egg hunt and to our youth for hiding them, to Peter Loveman for taking care of our livestream and sound/tech needs all week, and to Susan Terry, Angie Wester, and Debbie Adsit for helping host our community lunches and preparing for the Maundy Thursday dinner, and to all who contributed to our Maundy Thursday mission project. Thank you all so much for your help!

Church Calendar at a Glance

April 5	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt Worship - Easter Sunday
April 5	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice

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Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

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Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

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Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

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Early in the Morning on Easter Day

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Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **Gary and Kathy Graham**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember Gary, Kathy and their family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

Worship Leader for today: No Worship Leader

Worship Leader Next Sunday: George Young

The Elder on Call for April is Susan Terry She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-975-9847**.

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Traci Loveman
Holly Lowe
Luanne Biles
Andy Young
Shelby Albert

Family:

Kelley Waldron (Christie Ashton)
Lys Howdle (Susan Terry)
Parker Lord (Candy & Bob Lord)
Marcia Loveman (Peter Loveman)
Fred Jones (Bill Jones)

Friends:

Luke & Crystal Allen (Joanna Sterling-Clutts)
Margaret Bibb (Christie Ashton)
Barbara Dennis
Emily Loeb (Debbie Adsit)
Suzanne Minga (Traci Loveman)
Dr. Jon Wongsurawat (Traci Loveman)
Bob Harriger (Joanna Sterling-Clutts)
Melissa Altice (Angie Toles)
Mary Neikirk (Angie Toles)

Those serving in our military.

Those affected by natural disasters and war around the world.

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.