

**Easter Sunday
April 12, 2009**

GATHERING WITH JOY

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to worship**

Leader: Lord of Life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new!

People: We praise you for Jesus Christ, who has come that we may have life, and have it abundantly!

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

***Opening hymns**

#396:1,3 “Low In the Grave Christ Lay”

#388:1,3,5 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

(Ushers available for seating)

***God's greeting and greeting each other**

***Hymn #405:1,3 “I Serve a Risen Savior”**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

Scripture reading: Matthew 28:1-6a

Anthem “Christ Arose” Larson

Scripture reading: I Corinthians 15:54-57

Prayer (unison)

Victorious God, we praise you for defeating death, and restoring to us abundant life! We rejoice in the amazing gift of salvation. We see that the whole earth rejoices as the tree of life is regained, and lives in a garden of beauty and wholeness. We celebrate your victory – our victory – and the promise of forgiveness and new life in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn #402:1,4 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Pastoral Blessing

(Children Pre-K – 2nd grade may be escorted to Children in Worship)

Morning prayer: Kathi Jo DeYoung

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Revelation 22:1-5 (page 1140)

Message: *Living in the Tree of Life*

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND SERVICE

***Song “In Christ Alone”** CCLI #225774

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died;
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on him was laid:
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no human plan,
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Our gifts to the Lord: Ministries of Brookside and Debt Reduction
Offertory

***God's blessing**

***Closing song “Hallelujah Chorus”** Handel
(Anyone who would like to join the choir in singing is encouraged to come forward during the offering. Extra copies of the music are available.)

Postlude

* - stand, if you are able

Preaching: Pastor Paul DeVries

Organist: Phyllis Moes

Ministry of Music: Senior Choir, Brass Ensemble