

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ  
2101 East Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-663-7437 • stlukeunion.org • facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch

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**Sunday Worship Service — Easter Sunday**

March 31, 2024 10:30am

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord has risen indeed!*

*Luke 24:34*

**PRELUDE**

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Brass Ensemble

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR EASTER**

Leader: O Christ, in your resurrection, the heavens and earth rejoice. Alleluia! By your resurrection you broke open the gates of hell, and destroyed sin and death.

**All: Keep us victorious over sin.**

Leader: By your resurrection you raised the dead, and brought us from death to life.

**All: Guide us in the way of eternal life.**

Leader: By your resurrection you confounded your guards and executioners, and filled the disciples with joy.

**All: Give us joy in your service.**

Leader: By your resurrection you proclaimed good news to the women and apostles, and brought salvation to the whole world.

**All: Direct our lives as your new creation.**

Leader: God of Mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

“Fanfare and Hymn for the Risen Savior”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus’ rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life. Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God’s mercy.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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.

**SILENT REFLECTION**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song. I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, who lives and reigns, now and forever.

## RESPONSE

"Glory Be to the Father" PH #579

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. **Amen.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 20: 1-18

## ANTHEM

"The Easter Day with Joy was Bright" SLUC Choir

## EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

## SERMON

"Raised For Us"  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

## HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

## OFFERING

"Risen Indeed" SLUC Choir

## OFFERTORY

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" PH #428 v.1

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN

"Thine Is The Glory"

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

"Ode to Joy" Brass Ensemble