

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service — Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 10:30am

He is Risen! Risen indeed!

PRELUDE

ANTHEM

“Easter Carol” SLUC Choir

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 #123

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know that God shows no partiality, but welcomes and forgives all those who repent and believe. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have heard the good news: how on the third day, Christ rose again.

Still we look for the living among the dead.

You rolled away the stone from the tomb.

Still we look for the living among the dead.

You sent messengers to proclaim the gospel.

Still we look for the living among the dead.

You were faithful to your promise; you have done wonderful things!

Still we look for the living among the dead.

Forgive us, Lord, we pray. Teach us to trust your promise and to believe the good news of salvation: **Christ is alive; Jesus is risen from the dead. Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear what the prophets have spoken: that everyone who believes in Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia!

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 579

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

ANTHEM

“Resurrection Joy” SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

SERMON

“He is Risen!”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #111

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”

OFFERING

HYMN #428 (Verse 1)

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Through your victory, we pray to you: **Hear us, Lord of Glory.**

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 #109

“Christ Is Risen”

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

HYMN #593

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

POSTLUDE