

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 118)*

One: The Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

All: **Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.**

One: The stones the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

All: **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Let us worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN** “The Strife Is O’er” GtG 236

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. **The strife is o’er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!**
2. **The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!**
3. **The three sad days are quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!**

(continued)

4. **Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting Your servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia!**

Words: Latin Hymn, c. 1695; trans. Francis Pott, 1861

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We forget to live as Easter people. We fear our adversaries. We are overwhelmed by problems and challenges we face. We feel forsaken when we suffer. Help us keep our eyes on you, Lord Jesus, because you conquered sin and death, you rose from the grave, you paid the price for our sins. You are the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth, the One who is coming in the clouds in glory. We confess our sins before you and we thank you for what you did on the cross to bring redemption to all people. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus Christ loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. The Alpha, the Omega, the one who was and is and is to come, the Almighty, has washed away all our sins. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4: 1-11

Luke 20: 9-18

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “The Stones Tell the Story” by Reverend Emily Rosencrans

***HYMN** “Thine is the Glory” GtG 238

1. **Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death has one.**

2. **Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain

3. **No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more that conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain

Words: Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.
Music: JUDAS MACCABEUS, George Frederick Handel, 1748
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(THE NICENE CREED)*

**We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

(continued)

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven.
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!” GtG 239

1. **Good Christians all rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
2. **The Lord of life is risen today!
Death’s mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
3. **Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
4. **Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Words: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt.

Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1609; harm. Pilgrim Hymnal, 1958

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***CHARGE**

One: The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone!
And it is marvelous in our eyes!
Tell the Good News of Jesus’ Resurrection!

BENEDICTION:

One: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

POSTLUDE