



HAPPY

EASTER

*April 20, 2025 THE ORDER OF WORSHIP 8:30 am*

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

*On that very first Easter*

*Out of the familiar emerged the extraordinary*

*Transforming the ordinary for all eternity.*

**THE INTROIT** “*An Easter Celebration*” arr. Wes Cameron  
CRR Chancel Choir, Sedona Academy of Chambers Singers  
NAU Brass Quartet

**THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE** John 20: 1 – 10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw the stone had been removed from the entrance. She came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So, Peter and the other disciple started running for the tomb, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. Finally, the other disciple also entered. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples returned to where they were staying.

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (please rise as you are able)

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Death has lost its sting.

**People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Rejoice in this day of salvation. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

## THE OPENING HYMN

No. 233 (vs. 1-3)

*“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”*

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*You are invited to greet those around you  
and wish them Happy Easter.*

## THE CONTEMPORARY LESSON

Ann Siddall

Think of a moment when someone that you least expected  
to see suddenly stands before you.

A moment when something you'd lost is found again and you  
can scarcely believe your eyes.

Think of a moment when your fear was suddenly proved  
unfounded, and you were surprised by joy.

This morning is such a moment. We resign ourselves to the  
worst, and suddenly life turns around.

So come this Easter morning, to be shaken from your conviction  
that nothing can change your situation.

Come if you look at the world and feel overwhelmed by its  
chaos or disillusioned by its promises.

On this morning, we remember how Mary went to anoint a  
corpse and was greeted by our Savior.

Come to worship prepared to see your life and the world  
through new eyes.

For Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

## THE CALL TO PRAYER

Pastor: In forgiving past grudges, in unlocking  
unwept tears,

**People: We experience Easter, and renewed love.**

Pastor: In transforming buried anger, in abandoning  
guilt and fear,

**People: We experience Easter, and calming peace.**

Pastor: In the melting of the ice in our heart, in the giving  
of our being to God,

**People: We experience Easter, and new life.**

## THE PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, which 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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### THE RESPONSE

No. 237 (vs. 1)

*"I come to the Garden Alone"*

### THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE CONTINUES John 20:10-19

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was him.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said,

"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus looked at her and said, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them,

'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!”

And she told them of the things he said to her.

### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*“Alleluia, He Lives”* arr. Joel Raney  
CRR Chancel Choir, NAU Brass Quartet  
Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers

### **THE SERMON**

*“Cracked Dawn”*  
Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

### **THE RESPONSE**

*“He Lives”* Alfred H. Ackley

### **THE MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP**

The Living God invites us to demonstrate our desire to follow in the ways of love by sharing from our lives today. Your donations help us shout out the news of resurrection, for all who long to encounter the LIVING GOD and who wish to be fellow sojourners in the Way of Jesus. Give, that we might share the great news of abundant life. Give in a way that is not only simple and safe, but also efficient and cost-effective for the church. It’s easy! Scan the QR code below

### **OFFERTORY**

*“Lift High the Cross”* arr. Larry Shackley  
Alec Wilkes, piano

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We thank you, O God, for that very first Easter when Mary Magdalene cried outside the tomb. We thank you for this Easter, when we celebrate hope for a new day and a new life. We can now face the challenges of our troubled times with a loving smile, encouraging all people to continue loving our neighbor. Bless the gifts that we have offered today so they may reach those who most need it. In the name of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN

No. 4 (vs. 1-2, 4)

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

## THE BENEDICTION

Life is short and we don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk with us.

Life is short and we don't have much time to love those who love us.

Life is short, so be ready.

Be ready to love with unhesitating kindness for a world full of hate;

be ready to hope with unrelenting joy to a world full of despair; be ready to live in peace with a world full of hostility.

And may the blessings of the Risen Christ, who blessed us with an ever-present grace be with you this day and all the days of your life. *Amen*

## THE POSTLUDE

*“Thine Be the Glory”*

George Frideric Handel ~ arr. Brandon Dicks  
NAU Brass Quartet

***WE APPRECIATE YOU!***

***HAPPY EASTER***



***The Church of the Red Rocks***  
***54 Bowstring Drive***  
***Sedona, AZ 86326***  
***(928) 282-7963***  
***[www.churchoftheredrocks.com](http://www.churchoftheredrocks.com)***