

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Were You There / Christ Arose"

arr. Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Call to Worship:

Matthew 28:1–10

Choral Anthem: "See, What a Morning"

Getty/Greer

* Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

PH 388

* God's Greeting:

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who has created us and saved us in Jesus Christ our hope.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace from him who was and is and is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before the throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Amen.

* Prayer of the Day:

Glory to you, O God: on this day you won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you O Holy Spirit: you lead us into truth and bring us to new life. Glory to you, blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

* Response: "Our God Reigns"

PH 195

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him

Who brings good news, good news.

Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness.

Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

Refrain: Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

Out of the tomb He came with grace and majesty;

He is alive, He is alive.

God loves us so—see here His hands, His feet, His side.

Yes, we know He is alive. *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

based on Romans 5:8; John 14:19; Hebrews 4:16

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus, like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Risen Lord, restore us from our sins to new life and enable us to be instruments of your saving life to those around us. We pray in the Spirit's power,

Amen.

Response: "O How Good Is Christ the Lord"

PH 401

Assurance of Pardon:

adapted from I Corinthians 15:54b–56

Because Jesus died and rose again, we say with great joy:

**"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are forgiven. WE have overcome. Live in peace. Amen.

God's Will for Our Lives:

Romans 6:1–4, 11–14

Response: "How Good Is Christ the Lord"

PH 401

Congregational Prayer

Choral Anthem: "Amen, Amen"

arr. Larson

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Low in the Grave Christ Lay"

PH 396

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Esther 8 (p. 493)

Sermon: *Triumphant Victory*

Prayer

* Hymn: "I Serve a Risen Savior"

PH 405

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Lift High the Cross"

arr. Raney

* Confession of Faith:

We declare with joy and trust:

Christ is risen.

We declare with joy and trust:

Christ has conquered sin and death.

We declare with joy and trust:

Christ is Lord of all creation.

We declare with joy and trust:

Christ, our risen Lord, is coming.

We declare with joy and trust:

The ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

Ephesians 3:20–21

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

* Doxology: "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

PH 389

* Postlude: "Toccata in F Major"

Buxtehude