



**West Richmond Church of the Brethren**

7612 Wanymla Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) [wrcob@wrcob.org](mailto:wrcob@wrcob.org) [www.wrcob.org](http://www.wrcob.org)

**Alleluia! As the Risen Jesus greeted Mary <sup>(John 20:16)</sup>,  
so he greets us. Welcome to Easter worship!**

**Prelude**

*For God So Loved the World*

arr. E. Simpson-Curenton

For God So Loved the World by Lanny Wolfe

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**GIVE PRAISE TO GOD**

**\* Call to Worship**

Reader: This is the day:

**People: when tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended; fears are replaced with joy.**

Reader: This is the day the Lord:

**People: rolls away the stone of fear; throws off death's clothes; goes ahead of us into God's future.**

Reader: This is the day the Lord has made:

**People: death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us; God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.**

Reader: This is the day - Easter Day! Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen Indeed!**

**\* Opening Prayer**

<http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/>

Creator of Life, in raising Christ Jesus up, through, out of, and beyond the chains of death, You opened for us the way to eternal and abundant life. May our Alleluias on this day float high above the ceiling of what we think we know and transcend to the heaven of what we believe—and thus live. Raise us up! Renew our lives! Resurrect our dreams! Through Jesus Christ our Living Savior, Amen.

\* **Opening Song**      *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*      # 3 5 4 <sup>VT</sup>

Verse 1:

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder, all creation stand amazed.  
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Verse 2:

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;  
Jesus is our strong companion—joy and peace shall never end.

Verse 3:

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus, “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing hosanna, ev’ry one!

## CELEBRATE GOD’S FAMILY

### Time with our Children

#### Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 118:21-24, NRSVUE

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

#### Song

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

# 3 4 6 <sup>VT</sup>

Verse 1:

Christ the Lord is ris’n today! Alleluia!  
All creation join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!  
Sing, O heav'n, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Verse 2:

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Verse 3:

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!  
where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Verse 4:

Soar we now where Jesus led, Alleluia!  
foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, with Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

## Pastoral Prayer

# WORSHIP IN GIVING

## Prayer for Our Gifts

<http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>

God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen.

## Song

*Low in the Grave He Lay*

#333 <sup>VT</sup>

Verse 1:

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!

*Refrain:*

*Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes! (He arose!)  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!  
He arose! (He arose!) He arose! (He arose!) Alleluia! Christ arose!*

Verse 2:

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Savior!  
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord! *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus, my Savior!  
He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord! *Refrain*

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Mark 16:1-8, NRSVUE

**16** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## Special Music

### *Hosanna to the Son*

Joe E. Parks

Hosanna to the Son by Joe E. Parks

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## Sermon

“The Third Day”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

### \* Song

*The Strife Is O'er*

#350<sup>VT</sup>

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Verse 1:

The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
the victory of life is won.  
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!

Verse 2:

The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst: Alleluia!

Verse 3:

The three sad days have quickly sped.  
He rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Verse 4:

Christ, by your wounds on Calvary,  
from death's dread sting your servants free,  
that we may live eternally: Alleluia!

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### \* Benediction

## Postlude

*Because He Lives*

Gaither

Because He Lives by Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither

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