

New Hope Reformed Church

Order For Worship: A Litany for the Resurrection | The Lord's Day, April 9, 2023

*leader: plain text; **congregation/all: bold, italic text**

standing

Call To Worship

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May His grace and peace be with you.

May He fill all our hearts with joy!

Song 1: "Up From the Grave He Arose", [tune](#)

Low in the grave He lay—Jesus, my Savior,
Waiting the coming day—Jesus, my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed—Jesus, my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead—Jesus, my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus, my Savior;
He tore the bars away—Jesus, my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

seated

Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4

Sermon

standing

Song 2: "Worship Christ the Risen King", [tune](#)

Rise, O church, and lift your voices,
Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices;
Resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid Him,
Empty now, its mouth declares;
“Death and I could not contain Him
For the throne of life He shares.”
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the risen King.

Hear the earth protest and tremble,
See the stone removed with pow'r;
All hell's minions may assemble,
But cannot withstand His hour.
He has conquered, He has conquered,
Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur,
Scoffers mock and sinners jeer
But the truth proclaims a wonder
Thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, He is risen,
Now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus,
Now we sing Your victory.
Sin or hell may seek to seize us,
But Your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph,
Worship Christ, the risen King.

Membership Profession and Vows

seated

A Litany of the Resurrection

The Lord be with you,
and with Your spirit.
Let us pray together:

O Almighty and Ever-Living God, we gather to marvel at the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. In boldness you exalted the humble, empowering the weak. In strength You snatched victory from the jaws of death. In love You declared Your crucified Son the Savior of the world. We celebrate this Good News with You this gladsome day!

O Jesus Christ, Risen Master and Triumphant Lord, we come to You in sorrow for our sins, and confess to You our continuing weakness and unbelief:
We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of Your Resurrection. In Your mercy, forgive us and help us:

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as if faithless and unbelieving. In Your mercy, forgive us:

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in Heaven. In Your mercy forgive us:

Lord, hear us and help us. Lift our minds above earthly things; set them on things above. Show us Your glory and power, that we may gladly serve You all our days. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death, we praise You for changed lives and new hopes on that first Resurrection Morning. You came to Mary in the garden and turned her tears into joy! For Your love and mercy:

We give You thanks, O LORD.

You came to the disciples in the upper room and turned their failure into faith. For Your love and mercy:

We give You thanks, O LORD.

You came to the disciples on the Emmaus Road, and turned their despair into hope. For Your love and mercy:

We give You thanks, O LORD.

Today, and in all ages, You come to us in our unworthiness and shame, and turn our death into triumph. For Your love and mercy:

We give You thanks, O LORD.

Lord Jesus, whenever there are tears, or fear, of failure, or despair, or death; come, reveal to all your Elect Your love, Your mercy, and Your risen power; for the glory of Your Name.

Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us!

Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, responding "Christ IS risen indeed." Christ IS risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

God of Life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. On this day give us hope, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

May we commit ourselves to work for the purity, unity and peace of the Church, that Christ's Body may indeed be One, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs make a mockery of their estate as having been made in the Image of God; for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

For all Your Elect still languishing in spiritual death, for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for those on our hearts this day, and all our fellow brothers in Jesus Christ, we pray that death may no more have power over us, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

For all who suffer and all who mourn, we pray that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene, and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

May we joyfully be one in faith with all who have died in Christ, for our life is hidden with Christ in God; for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Father of Life, we thank You for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life yet in death, and community from scattered disciples. We praise You for the dying which saves us from death, and for the rising which brings us life. We pray as we live, through Jesus the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

standing

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed, [tune](#)

I believe in God the Father,
Maker of all heav'n and earth,
And in Jesus Christ our Savior,
God's own Son of matchless worth;
By the Spirit was conceived,
Of the virgin Mary born,
He in whom I have believed,
God Almighty, Three In One.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Crucified for me He died;
Laid within the grave so silent,
Gates of hell He opened wide.
For the stone-sealed tomb was empty;
On the third day He arose;
Into heaven made His entry,
Mighty conq'or of His foes.

At God's right hand He is seated
Till His coming as He said;
Final judgment will be meted
To the living and the dead.
I confess the Holy Spirit
Who was sent through Christ the Son
To apply salvation's merit
God the Spirit Three in One.

I believe the church of Jesus
Universal e'er remains.
We are one through all the ages
In communion of the saints.
I believe sins are forgiven,
That our bodies will be raised
To eternal life in heaven:
Ever let His name be praised.

seated

Gathering Of Our Tithes & Offerings

Our most merciful and gracious God, we bring our gifts to You in response to Your Good News: Christ is risen indeed and abides with us still. May all that we do be in response to the new life You give us through the Gospel. Receive now what we offer and transform all our being to conform with Your will. Extend Your grace also through us so that all Your Elect may hear of the salvation You bring. **Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the Holy Gospel, taken from Saint Matthew: "As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins".

Now, in Christ's Name, I take these elements, the bread and the wine, to be set apart by prayer and thanksgiving to the holy use for which He has appointed them. Let us pray:

O God, You have, by the blood of Your dear Son, set apart for us a new and a living way into the holiest of all. Cleanse our minds, we implore You by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that, drawing near unto You with a pure heart and undefiled conscience. we may receive these Your gifts without sin, and worthily magnify Your holy Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"The bread, which we break, is by faith a participation in the Body of Christ."

"In just like manner, the cup that we bless is, by faith, a participation in the Blood of Christ."

Please hold each element. We will partake together after all have been served.

Closing Prayer

Loving Father, Living God, it is right and appropriate and our joyful duty, always and everywhere to give You thanks; and especially on this the Lord's Day, when we greet our risen Lord. We praise You, O God, for all that You have done for us in Christ. We praise You for His life through which He showed Your love; for His victory over evil, and for His obedience which took Him to the cross; for His triumph over death, and for His coming to be our Living Lord. We praise You for this bread and wine now received, through which we remember, our faith and hope are renewed, and we share in the fellowship of Your undying love. Honor, glory, and praise be to You, O Living God, here and everywhere, now and forever. **Amen.**

standing

Song 3: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", [tune](#)

"Christ the Lord is risen today," Al-le-lu-ia!
Sons of men and angels say, Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing ye heavn's and earth reply, Al-le-lu-ia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal: Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain forbids His rise: Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ has opened paradise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Lives again our glorious King: Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death is now thy sting?, Al-le-lu-ia!
Once He died our souls to save: Al-le-lu-ia!
Where thy victory, O grave?, Al-le-lu-ia!

Soar we now where Christ has led: Al-le-lu-ia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise: Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies: Al-le-lu-ia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n!: Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n: Al-le-lu-ia!
Thee, we greet triumphant now: Al-le-lu-ia!
Hail, the Resurrection, thou!: Al-le-lu-ia!

Benediction

May the love given through the cross, the power of the resurrection, and the Presence of the Holy Spirit be with you always. And may all the blessings of the Eternal God- the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Doxology: "Lift Up, Lift Up Your Voices Now!", [tune](#)

Lift up, lift up your voices now;
The whole wide world rejoices now:
The Lord has triumphed gloriously,
The Lord shall reign victoriously.

In vain with stone the cave they barred;
In vain the watch kept ward and guard:
Majestic from the spoiled tomb,
In pomp of triumph Christ is come.

He binds in chains the ancient foe;
A countless host He frees from woe,
And heavn's high portal open flies,
For Christ has ris'n, and man shall rise.

And all He did and all He bare,
He gives us as our own to share;
And hope and joy and peace begin,
For Christ has won, and man shall win.

O Victor, aid us in the fight,
And lead through death to realms of light;
We safely pass where Thou has trod;
In Thee we die to rise to God.

Thy flock, from sin and death set free,
Glad alleluias raise to Thee;
And ever with the heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.