

# The Resurrection of our Lord

*A Celebrate! Worship for Every Festival<sup>+</sup>*  
Service of Holy Communion  
*with the flowering of the cross*

*Please note that this is a sample. The full text can be received by emailing us at [nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu](mailto:nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu)*



**Preparation notes:**

*The flowering of the cross is a Western Christian Eastertide tradition that dates to the sixth century. It is a vivid symbol of the resurrection – new life that comes from death. This liturgy is dependent upon a rough wooden cross prepared in advance for flowering during the worship service. People of all ages and abilities can help with both the advance preparation of the cross and the flowering of the cross during Easter worship. The flowering of the cross is a Western Christian Eastertide tradition that dates to the sixth century. It symbolizes the resurrection – new life that comes from death.*

- **Steps:**
  1. *Invite worshipers to bring cut flowers to Easter Sunday worship*
  2. *Purchase or procure donated greens. Purchase or procure donated cut flowers. Cut flowers can be inexpensively purchased at stores like Costco and Sam's club*
  3. *Before Easter Sunday (preferably on Holy Saturday), place a large rough wooden cross in a visible, accessible place in the worship space, and prepare it for flowering. If possible, the cross will be one that has been included in chancel appointments throughout Lent and/or on Good Friday.*
  4. *Wrap the cross in chicken wire.*



5. *Cover the cross with greens by sticking the greens into the chicken wire. The greens can be palms, evergreens, ferns, or any combination of greenery.*



6. *Mist the greened cross so that it stays fresh for Sunday.*
7. *Fill buckets or vases with cut flowers. Encourage worshipers to also bring their own cut flowers with them to worship on Easter Sunday.*
8. *During worship, at designated times, invite people to come forward and affix their flowers to the cross.*



## **Prelude/Gathering Music**

### **Welcome**

*Invite children to bring their bells and join the procession at the entrance to the church*

## **GATHERING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Jesus is risen! Alleluia, we sing! Jesus is risen the bells now ring!

### **Entrance Hymn**

### **Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

**ELW 365**

*All ring their bells during the entrance hymn*

*Children follow the pastor to the cross and each place a flower on the cross.*

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*The children gather with the Pastor around the font*

**P:** In the name of God the Creator, Savior, and Spirit. Amen.

*A child pours water into the font as the following is read*

P: In the waters of baptism, we receive God's love and forgiveness, and are forever connected to Christ. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

At the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the waters,  
Your word calling out into the deep and creating everything there is.  
Your Spirit continues to move through the story of your people:  
Crossing the Red Sea with Moses and the Israelites,  
Delivering them into safety.  
Sweeping across the lands in the great flood,  
Making way for a new beginning when all seemed lost.  
Washing over us in the waters of baptism,  
Making us new.  
In these waters, we hear God proclaim:  
"You are my beloved."  
And that is our truth forever.

*All are invited to make the sign of the cross of their foreheads.*

*Children at the font are invited to dip their finger in the water before making the sign of the cross of their foreheads.*

**Please repeat after me –**

**I am God's beloved.**

**I am loved.**

**I am forgiven.**

**Nothing can separate me from this love.**

**Thank you, God, for water.**

**Thank you, God, for baptism.**

**Thank you, God, for loving me.**  
**Amen**

P: Jesus is risen! Alleluia, we sing! Jesus is risen the bells now ring!

**Easter Proclamation**

*Be Not Afraid*

**ELW 388 (3x)**

*All ring their bells during the hymn*

*Children add more flowers to the cross and then return to their places*

**Prayer of the Day**

P: God of resurrection and new life, we give you thanks that Jesus is risen and we too shall arise. Help us to trust and believe that because Jesus lives, we shall live also. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might be your resurrection people in this world, bringing hope into places of despair, joy into places of sadness, and life into places of death. In the name of +Jesus. Amen.

## **WORD**

**First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak: "I really understand now that God does not consider some people to be better than others. He accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right. It is not important what nation they come from. God has spoken to the people of Israel. He sent them the Good News that peace has come through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all people.

"You know what has happened all over Judea. It began in Galilee after John told the people they needed to be baptized. You know about Jesus from Nazareth. God made him the Messiah by giving him the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus went everywhere doing good for people. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, showing that God was with him.

"We saw all that Jesus did in Judea and in Jerusalem. But he was killed. They put him on a cross made of wood. But on the third day after his death, God raised him to life and let him be seen openly. He was not seen by everyone, but only by us, the ones God had already chosen to be witnesses. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from death.

"Jesus told us to go and speak to the people. He told us to tell them that he is the one God chose to be the Judge of all who are living and all who have died. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name. All the prophets agree that this is true."

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Anthem or Special Music*

P: Jesus is risen! Alleluia, we sing! Jesus is risen the bells now ring!

## Commission

P. Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C. **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia**

## Postlude

*+ “Celebrate! Worship for Every Festival” liturgies are part of the Nourishing Vocation with Children Project at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. This liturgy was created by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox. This full attribution must be included, along with the logos below, on any reproduction or distribution of this material, along with the attributions below about the readings.*

Acts 10:34-43 Holy Bible, Easy to Read Version

John 20:1-18, Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version

Thanksgiving for Baptism, Offertory Prayer, Communion Invitation, and Post Communion Prayer by Rev. Sarah Krolak from liturgy for Young at Heart Worship + Elemental Worship

