

Greeting and Introduction

Blessing of the New Fire: Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this new flame that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from you and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

ONE: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Christ is our light!

All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Up From The Grave He Arose UMH 322

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) 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) 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) He arose! (He arose) Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Christ the Lord is Risen Today UMH 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

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!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson: John 1: 1-5

Message: "...The darkness has not overcome it." David Beeman

Hymn of Promise UMH 707

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Easter Proclamation

This our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain. This the night when first you saved our forebears, you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them with dry feet through the sea.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

This the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. Truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, we are reconciled to you!

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

May the Morning Star, which never sets, find this flame still burning. Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, Your Son who lived and reigns for ever and ever.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Alleluia! Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

He Lives UMH 310

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near

Chorus: He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart

In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last

Chorus:

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind

Chorus:

First United Methodist Church of Hanford

March 31, 2024 – 6:30am

EASTER SUNRISE
LOVE LEADS THE WAY

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