

**SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR 4-12-2020**  
**Easter Sunday**

- **Call to Praise – 1 Peter 1:3-4**
- **Sing songs of praise** – Celebrate the Risen Christ by singing! I recommend singing (or reading) one or more of the following resurrection songs:
  - *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*, (LUYH #182; Grey Psalter #388; Blue Psalter #356)
  - *Low in the Grave He Lay* (LUYH #186; Grey #396; Blue #357)
  - *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* (LUYH #193)
  - *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* (LUYH #179; Grey #387; Blue #360)

- **A Prayer of Easter Expectation:**

Merciful God, on this day we remember the women who waited at Jesus' tomb, the fearful disciples gathered again in the upper room, the despondent pilgrims on their journey to Emmaus.

Who among them could have imagined all that would take place?

We pray, with urgency and expectation,

for all those who live every day in fear and despondency, without tasting and seeing the joy of resurrection life in Christ.

As we wait, may your Spirit be on the move.

May many—those we love, those we have never met—be surprised by joy in this Easter season.

Through the power of the resurrected Christ, we pray. Amen. <sup>1</sup>

- **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 12-26; 42-57**
- **Read or sing a song of thanksgiving:** Suggestions:
  - Psalm 105
  - *See, What a Morning* (LUYH #181)
  - *Because He Lives* (LUYH #361)
  - *I Serve a Risen Savior* (LUYH #365; Grey #405)

- **Say a prayer of intercession.**

- **Read or Recite Psalm 119:9-16**

- **Read (or sing) a prayer for the illumination of the Word:**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness—that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from LUYH #180

<sup>2</sup> *Speak, O Lord vs 1*; Words by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend. You can find the song in LUYH #755.

- **Tune in to Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/crclucas](http://www.facebook.com/crclucas)

As part of the live portion of the service, the Kuperus family will lead in the following:

- *An Easter Celebration* – This song was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette this year specifically for what we are experiencing today: having to celebrate Easter without being together as a church. The tune of the song is the familiar *Aurelia* by Samuel Wesley, the tune for *The Church's One Foundation*. The words are below and you may join at home as the Kuperus family leads.

(Used by Permission)

1. This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.  
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.  
We're distant from our neighbors—from worship leaders, too.  
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

2. No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.  
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?  
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place  
we ponder the resurrection and celebrate your grace.

3. Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see—  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

4. In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:  
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.  
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!  
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

5. We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.  
In homes and in places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

- **Sermon:** “The Sights, Sounds, and Significance of Easter” Matthew 28:1-15
- **Song of Response:** *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death* by Keith Getty, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, & Matthew Merker.  
(CCLI#547476)
  - You can listen as the Kuperus' sing, or join in at home if you feel comfortable doing so.

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us night, Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord.  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy when Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.  
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Now and ever we confess:  
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- **Benediction**

## ARTICLE 26: THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST – PART 1

We believe that we have no access to God  
except through the one and only Mediator and  
Intercessor:

Jesus Christ the Righteous.

He therefore was made man,  
uniting together the divine and human natures,  
so that we human beings might have access to  
the divine Majesty.

Otherwise we would have no access.

But this Mediator,  
whom the Father has appointed between himself  
and us,

ought not terrify us by his greatness,  
so that we have to look for another one,  
according to our fancy.

For neither in heaven nor among the creatures  
on earth

is there anyone who loves us  
more than Jesus Christ does.

Although he was “in the form of God,”  
he nevertheless “emptied himself,”  
taking the form of “a man” and “a servant” for us;  
and he made himself “completely like his  
brothers.”

Suppose we had to find another intercessor.

Who would love us more than he who gave his  
life for us,

even though “we were his enemies”?

And suppose we had to find one who has  
prestige and power.

Who has as much of these as he who is seated  
“at the right hand of the Father,”

and who has all power

“in heaven and on earth”?

And who will be heard more readily  
than God’s own dearly beloved Son?

So then, sheer unbelief has led to the practice  
of dishonoring the saints,  
instead of honoring them.

That was something the saints never did nor  
asked for,

but which in keeping with their duty,

as appears from their writings,  
they consistently refused.

We should not plead here  
that we are unworthy—

for it is not a question of offering our prayers  
on the basis of our own dignity

but only on the basis of the excellence and  
dignity

of Jesus Christ,

whose righteousness is ours  
by faith.

## ARTICLE 26: THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST - PART 2

Since the apostle for good reason  
wants us to get rid of this foolish fear—  
or rather, this unbelief—  
he says to us that Jesus Christ  
was “made like his brothers in all things,”  
that he might be a high priest  
who is merciful and faithful  
to purify the sins of the people.  
For since he suffered,  
being tempted,  
he is also able to help those  
who are tempted.  
And further,  
to encourage us more  
to approach him  
he says,  
“Since we have a high priest,  
Jesus the Son of God,  
who has entered into heaven,  
we maintain our confession.  
For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to have compassion for our  
weaknesses,  
but one who was tempted in all things,  
just as we are,  
except for sin.  
Let us go then  
with confidence  
to the throne of grace  
that we may obtain mercy  
and find grace,  
in order to be helped.”

The same apostle says that  
we “have liberty to enter into the holy place  
by the blood of Jesus.

Let us go, then, in the assurance  
of faith....”

Likewise,

“Christ’s priesthood is forever.  
By this he is able to save completely  
those who draw near to God through him  
who always lives to intercede  
for them.”

What more do we need?

For Christ himself declares:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life;  
no one comes to my Father  
but by me.”

Why should we seek  
another intercessor?

Since it has pleased God  
to give us his Son as our Intercessor,  
let us not leave him for another—  
or rather seek, without ever finding.

For when God gave him to us  
he knew well that we were sinners.

Therefore,  
in following the command of Christ  
we call on the heavenly Father  
through Christ,  
our only Mediator,  
as we are taught by the Lord’s Prayer,  
being assured that we shall obtain  
all we ask of the Father  
in his name.