



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 20, 2025

Holy Week · Easter Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense [then] it is only about me, about finding a new dimension in my personal spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world — news which warms our hearts precisely because it isn’t just about warming hearts. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things — and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement the victory of Jesus over them all. Take away Easter and Karl Marx was probably right to accuse Christianity of ignoring the problems of the material world. Take it away and Freud was probably right to say Christianity is wish-fulfillment. Take it away and Nietzsche probably was right to say it was for wimps.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have conquered death through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant us by your grace to set our mind on things above, so that by your continual help our whole life may be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting glory. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Cassio

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges · Godfrey Thring

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit, thro' him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne.
To thee be endless praise,
For thou for us hast died,
Be thou, oh Lord, thro' endless days,
Adored and magnified.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Corinthians 15

LEADER Christ has been raised from the dead,

PEOPLE **The first fruits of those who have died.**

LEADER For since death came through a man,

PEOPLE **The resurrection of the dead has also come through a man.**

LEADER For as all die in Adam,

PEOPLE **So all will be made alive in Christ.**

EASTER AFFIRMATION

LEADER Christ is risen!

PEOPLE **He is risen indeed!**

HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley · Don Marsh · Lyra Davidica

Christ the Lord is ris'n today. Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!

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

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!

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Father, you sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we might live a new life in him. Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and bound by ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and enable us by his resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 6:9-11

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

LEADER

Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL

Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL

And also with you.

HYMN

Thine Be the Glory

George Frideric Handel · Edmond Budry · Tr. Richard Hoyle

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Chorus*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Chorus*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was
made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,

And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.

OFFERING

*If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal. You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting [centralchurchnyc.org/give](https://www.centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

OFFERTORY

My Redeemer Lives

Nicole C. Mullen

Who taught the sun where to stand in the morning?
Who told the ocean you can only come this far?
Who showed the moon where to hide 'til evening?
Whose words alone can catch a falling star?

*Well I know my Redeemer lives!
I know my Redeemer lives!
All of creation testify, this life within me cries,
"I know my Redeemer lives!"*

The very same God that spins things in orbit,
He runs to the weary, the worn and the weak.
And the same gentle hands that hold me when I'm broken,
They conquered death to bring me victory. *Chorus*

He lives
To take away my shame,
And he lives!
Forever, I'll proclaim
That the payment for my sin
Was the precious life he gave.
But now he's alive
And there's an empty grave! *Chorus*

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:36-49

The passage can be found on page 885 of the pew Bible.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that

repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

SERMON

A Day in the Life of Jesus | The Day Jesus Defeated Death

Rev. Jason Harris

THE THANKSGIVING

LEADER

Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE

We lift them up to the Lord.

LEADER

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE

**It is right to give him thanks and
praise.**

LEADER

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread. Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available at each station.

COMMUNION HYMN

I Will Rise

Chris Tomlin

There's a peace I've come to know,
Though my heart and flesh may fail.
There's an anchor for my soul;
I can say, "It is well!"
Jesus has overcome,
And the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won,
He is risen from the dead.

*And I will rise when he calls my name,
No more sorrow, no more pain.
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God, fall on my knees
And rise. I will rise!*

There's a day that's drawing near,
When this darkness breaks to light,
And the shadows disappear,
And my faith shall be my eyes.
Jesus has overcome,
And the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won,
He is risen from the dead. *Chorus*

And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb!" *Chorus*

HYMN

Worthy Is the Lamb

Darlene Zschech · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Thank you for the cross, Lord.
Thank you for the price you paid.
Bearing all my sin and shame, in love you came
And gave amazing grace.

Thank you for this love, Lord.
Thank you for the nail-pierced hands.
Wash me in your cleansing flow, now all I know
Your forgiveness and embrace.

*Worthy is the Lamb seated on the throne.
Crown you now with many crowns;
You reign victorious!
High and lifted up, Jesus, Son of God.
The darling of Heaven, crucified;
Worthy is the Lamb!*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who
 love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☺

REQUEST FOR CARE

If you have a financial or practical care need for which you'd like to request assistance from Central, our deacons are readily available to discuss that with you. Please email care@centralchurchnyc.org and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2026 Projected Expenses: \$4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: \$1,293,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$3,447,000