Congregation: **"Take and eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this and remember me."**

Pastor: After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said:

Congregation: **"This is my blood poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me."**

Pastor: God of resurrection power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the gifts of food and drink we offer in remembrance of you. May they be for us the life of Christ. After feasting, may we make Christ's life visible through our faithful witness to him. We pray, saying:

All: ***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.***

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

The body of Christ broken for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All people: ***This has been no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN ***Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*** **Blue Hymnal, #222**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Easter people, celebrate this day of days!
Rejoice in God, your Savior!
Know the new life God has gifted you through Jesus Christ!
Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: Alleluia!

Congregation: **Alleluia!**

Pastor: May the grace, hope, peace, and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024
Service of Word and Sacrament

PRELUDE ***Jesus Christ is Risen Today*** **Chancel Choir**

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

HYMN ***Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*** **Blue Hymnal, #167**
(Verses 1, 2, and only)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead, you offer us new and transformed lives in the risen Christ. We rejoice and give thanks for this good news, which has been handed down to us from generation to generation. May we, too, be witnesses of Jesus, who you anointed with the Holy Spirit to bring blessings of mercy and healing. May we be witnesses of Jesus' suffering and death, and how he meets us in the broken places of our lives. Most of all, may we be witnesses of the resurrection, sharing your promise of forgiveness and grace with all people. This is your doing, O God. It is marvelous in our eyes. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All: ***Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Loving God, we confess too, that when life is good, we do not always live in the spirit of new life, but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to your Ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Congregation: Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

Pastor: The stone in rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord."

Congregation: We have seen Christ too! In every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Pastor: Beloved of God, you are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Walk toward on this journey of faith, knowing your brothers and sisters are with you.

All people: ***Amen.***

RESPONSE OF PRAISE ***Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*** **Blue Hymnal, #167**
(Verse 4 only)

(The congregation may be seated)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME"

SPECIAL MUSIC ***He Lives!*** **JAM Choir**

EPISTLE READING **Acts 10:34-43**

Liturgist: Let us receive now the good news handed down by the saints from generation to generation.

Congregation: As the saints have proclaimed the gospel, so shall we believe and live it.

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Mark 16:1-8**

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

SPECIAL MUSIC ***The Festal Day is Here*** ***Chancel Choir***

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Friends, God has opened the gates of righteousness! Let us accept God's invitation and offer gifts of thanksgiving in Christ's name with a song and prayer of dedication.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE ***Accept, O God, the Gifts*** **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379**

Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all passion to fulfill
The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: ***Mighty God of Resurrection and Redemption, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We offer our hands and feet and voices to take the celebration out of this place into a world that needs hope so desperately! May we go into the world with such energy, excitement, and power that the ground shakes once again, that lightning flashes, and that people see in us your redeeming love and the triumph of light over darkness! In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.***

HYMN ***I Come with Joy*** **Blue Hymnal, #420**

(The congregation may be seated)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: There was joy on that first day of the week, when Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and later, on that same day, sat broke bread with two of his disciples. It was then that they recognized Christ was with them.

Congregation: This is the joyful feast of Christ's disciples. From the east and the west, the north and the south, we gather to break bread with Christ and one another.

Pastor: This is Christ's feast, and it is available to all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of his people.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Living God, on this most joyous day we offer our thanks and praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth; Creator and Lover of all humanity. Even when we turned away from you, you never rejected us. You spoke words of mercy and love through the prophets; promising that you would love us forever with an everlasting love. And so, we join our voices with all the company of heaven and earth singing:

ALL SING: ***Sanctus (Seraphic Hymn)*** **Red Hymnal, #522**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.
Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Holy God, this meal which we share today is a celebration of your love, which became known to us through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son – our beloved Lord. He graced lives with healing and hope, with compassion and power, and as if that weren't enough, he gave his very life for us. On the night of his betrayal, he sat at a table and broke bread with his friends, saying: