

# EASTER “SON”RISE WORSHIP

April 3, 2026

## Gathering in the Dawn

As the light begins to rise, the people gather in stillness. The quiet of early morning echoes the words: “*while it was still dark...*” (John 20:1). This is where Easter begins—not in certainty, but in shadow, longing, and searching.

Prelude

*Sinfonia* from *Cantata No. 156*

J.S. Bach

Rob Dickason, Flute

Barb Quinn, Keyboard

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark—

God was already at work.

**In the darkness, we come searching.**

Mary came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed.

**In our confusion and our questions, we come looking.**

The disciples ran toward mystery, toward uncertainty, toward hope.

**In our longing for truth, we come running.**

The tomb is empty. Death has been undone.

Christ is not where we expected.

**Christ is risen—and the world is changed! Alleluia!**

Come and see.

**We come to see. Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!**

## Opening Prayer

## SONG

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Jesus Christ is risen today... Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day... Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross... Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss... Alleluia!

To the tomb the women bring... Alleluia! Spices rich, an offering... Alleluia!  
Asking where might Jesus be... Alleluia! Savior come to set us free... Alleluia!

Christ appears in full array... Alleluia! Sing with joy this Paschal day... Alleluia!  
Christ now from the dead is raised... Alleluia! Holy Trinity be praised... Alleluia!

## Responsive Scripture Reading

**John 20:1–18**

*NRSVue*

**Narrator:** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

**Women:** “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

**Narrator:** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**Narrator:** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

**Men:** “Woman, why are you weeping?”

**Women:** “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

**Narrator:** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her,

**Men:** “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

**Narrator:** Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

**Women:** “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

**Narrator:** Jesus said to her,

**Men:** “Mary!”

**Narrator:** She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

**Women:** “Rabbouni!”

**Narrator:** (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her,

**Men:** “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

**Narrator:** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

**Women:** “I have seen the Lord,”

**Narrator:** And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Story**

Pastor Barb

**Litany of Joy and Faith**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed!**

Death does not have the final word—

Love triumphs!

Through Christ, we are all children of God.

**Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Amen.**

**Song**

*Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day* (back page)

**Sending Blessing**

(Linger for coffee and hot cross buns in Naar Hall)

Scripture and Message: Pastor Barb Dickason

Music: Barb Quinn and Rob Dickason

Usher: Patty Fjetland and Linda Newton

Refreshments: Gary Leidheiser, Patty Fjetland, Linda Newton

# Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day vs. 1,2

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Latin, c. 5th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

Luke 24:36-37

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone  
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our  
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles  
hearts to be your own, That we may give you  
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.  
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.  
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

*This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two earliest hymns assigned to a special season. From that beginning grew a full list of medieval Latin hymns assigned to specific times and seasons.*

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.  
German carol, 15th century  
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609  
Harm. George R. Woodward, 1910