



*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## 288 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

C  $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{F}{A}$  F  $\frac{F}{C}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm7 C  $\frac{F}{A}$   $\frac{C}{G}$  G7 C

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

$\frac{F}{A}$  C F  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm7 C  $\frac{C}{G}$  G C  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm7 C  $\frac{F}{A}$   $\frac{C}{G}$  G7 C

All cre - a - tion, join to say Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

G  $\frac{D7}{A}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  G  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{G7}{D}$  C G  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D7}{A}$  G  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

G  $\frac{C}{E}$  C  $\frac{F}{A}$  F  $\frac{F}{C}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$  F  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm  $\frac{C}{G}$  G7 C

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN  
7.7.7.7. Alleluia

**The First Church of Monson, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Church  
Easter Sunday  
April 20, 2025**

**Prelude**      *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

Joseph Farr-Wholley, Flutist

**Introit**

**\*Extravagant Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

Rev: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Rev: Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,

**All: You are welcome here!**

Rev: No matter where you're from, or how you got here,

**All: You are welcome here!**

Rev: Whether for this morning, for a year, or for a lifetime,

**All: You are welcome here!**

Rev: No matter how much is in your pocket, whom you love, or how you voted,

**All: You are welcome here!**

Rev: We gather together as one family of faith.

**All: We are all children of God who join together to celebrate and give thanks to God, Giver and Lover of all life.**

**\*Musical Response**      *"Christ the Lord Is Risen, Today"*

**VS. 1**  
(Page 1)

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

## **\*Call to Worship (responsive)**

Rev: Christ was arrested, beaten, and crucified,

**All: But the cross could not hold Him!**

Rev: Christ was buried; condemned to the tomb,

**All: But the tomb could not hold Him!**

Rev: Christ conquered death on our behalf,

**All: But death could not hold Him!**

Rev: Christ rose and returned to earth to show our hearts that  
He is, indeed, the Son of God,

**All: But the earth could not hold Him!**

Rev: He returned to God, Breath of all life; once and for all  
reconciling created with creator;

**All: Now death cannot hold us!**

Rev: Grace has been poured upon each one of us!

**All: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!**

## **\*Unison Prayer**

*Holy God, our Salvation, You roll away the power of death, bringing forth the One who gives everlasting life. Out of the garden of violence and hate, You bring forth a spring harvest of unconditional love and complete forgiveness. The grave has forever been stripped of its power and You have opened the gates of glory for all people! Speak to us, God of Victory, open our eyes to Grace, touch our lips with glad songs of triumph in You! On this great day of Easter, we worship You, and love You with all our hearts, souls*

***and minds. We have seen the Risen Lord! Alleluia, He is Risen, He is Risen, indeed!***

**\*Opening Hymn**    *“Christ the Lord Is Risen, Today”*    **vs. 2-4**  
(Page 1)

**Passing the Peace**

**Children’s Church**

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

**Choral Anthem**                      *Alleluia, Alleluia!*

- D. Governor

**Scripture Reading**    *“A Chorus of Events”*

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Keith Obert

**Sermon**                      *“I’ve Just Seen Jesus!”*                      *Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick*

**Meditation**                      *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*

REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

**Prayers of the People** (*Joys and Concerns*)

**Pastoral Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever; Amen.***

**\*Hymn**

*Up from the Grave He Arose!*

(Page 5)

**Call to Offering**



*Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick*

**\*Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Praise the Creator and the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit, three in one.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick*

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Jesus Is Risen*

(Page 7-8)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Departing Together**    *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.*

**Postlude**

*Festive Trumpet Tune*    - David German (b. 1954)

**Dismissal**

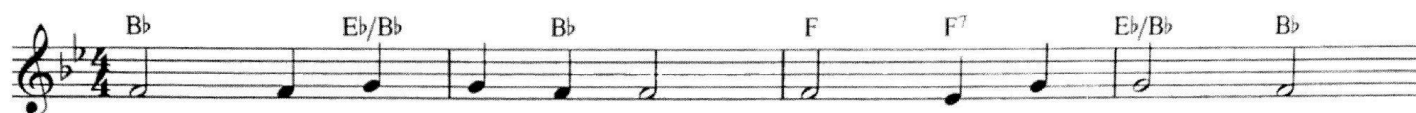
White for Easter  
Easter Sunday is traditionally white,  
symbolizing the joy, purity, and the resurrection of Christ.  
White represents the purity and glory of God's light  
and is used during Easter Sunday and  
the entire Easter season to signify  
the joyous occasion of Christ's resurrection.

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

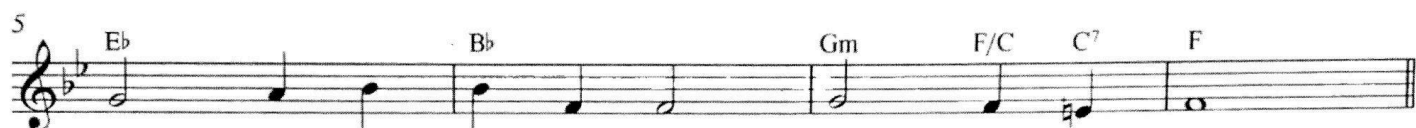


# 276. Up from the Grave He Arose

Music and Lyrics by Robert Lowry

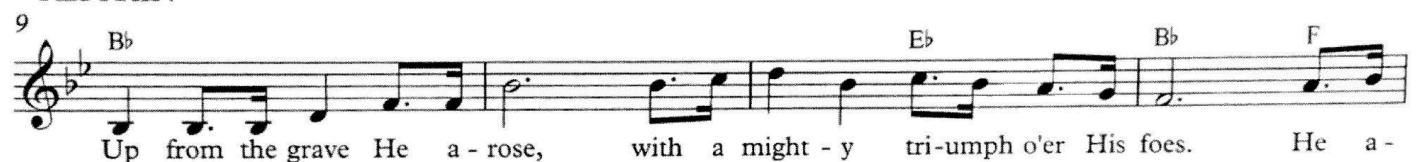


1. Low in the grave He lay-- Je - sus, my Sav - ior,  
 2. Vain - ly they watch His Bed-- Je - sus, my Sav - ior;  
 3. Death can - not keep his prey-- Je - sus, my Sav - ior;

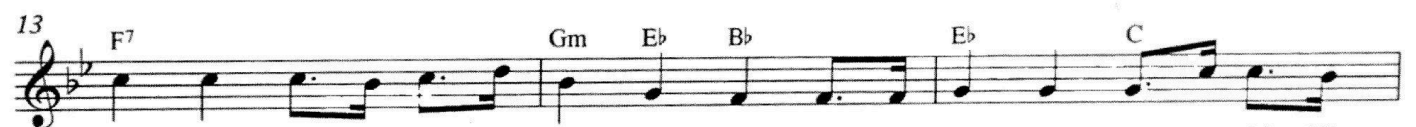


wait - ing the com - ing day-- Je - sus, my Lord.  
 vain - ly they seal the dead-- Je - sus, my Lord.  
 He tore the bars a - way-- Je - sus, my Lord.

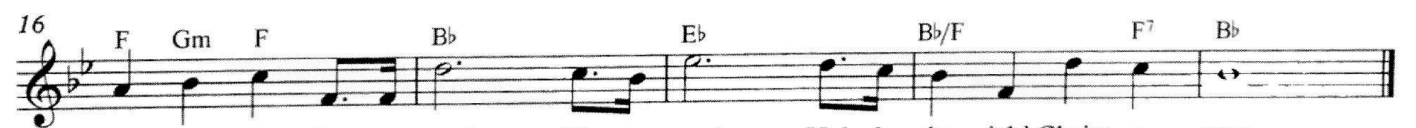
## REFRAIN



Up from the grave He a - rose, with a might - y tri-umph o'er His foes. He a -



rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and He lives for - ev - er with His



saints to reign. He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose.

# JESUS IS RISEN

261

D Bm Asus4 A D Bm Asus4 A

1. Je - sus is ris-en! Let us sing! Praise to the ev - er - liv - ing King!  
 2. On this most ho - ly day of days, Let us to-gether sing his praise!  
 3. To God the Fa-ther let us sing, To God the Son, our ris - en King!

D G D Bm E A D G Asus4 A D

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise him in song, ye Ser - a - phim! Praise  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Raise joy-ful voic-es to the sky! Sing  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! And e - qual-ly let us a - dore The

G Asus4 A G A D Em7 A7 Bm

1. him with joy, ye Cher - u - bim! }  
 2. out, ye heav-ens, in re - ply: } Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more! }

[Bm] E A Bm Em B7 Em Asus4 A A7 D

1-3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!





**Easter Flowers**  
**Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God**

**By:**

Laurie Clarke  
Alison Draper & Natalie Peeler  
Mary Newland  
Keith Obert

**In Celebration of:**

Family  
Don & Judy Draper  
Doris Carpenter  
ONA

**By:**

The DeSellier Family  
Alison Draper & Natalie Peeler  
Jeanne & Gregory Dill

Marcia Dix & Daughters  
Esther Haley & Richard Hubert  
Doug & Suzanne Kelley

Crystal Kofke  
Casandra Macdonald  
His Grandchildren: James  
White III, Gavin White, and  
Layla Macdonald  
Bob & Mary Ann Meacham

Lyle & Roy Miller

**In Memory of:**

Henry DeSellier  
Mildred Wheeler  
Elizabeth & Kenneth Stanton  
Margaret & Philip Dill, Jr.  
Rob Dix  
William & Helen Hubert  
Everett & Gloria Kelley  
Bill & Janice Woods  
Debra Kelley; Garold Thumm  
Jim Egger  
Laughlin Macdonald  
Laughlin Macdonald

George & Mildred Meacham, G. William  
Meacham, Amy Meacham & Meribeth  
Meacham  
Donald Cortis, Jr.

**By:**

Jordan Muhs  
Nora Muhs  
Carol Mullen  
Carrie Murphy  
Gracie Norwick-Schwarzenbach

Donna & Michael Okscin  
John & Gay Paluch  
Joan Watson  
Ava, Trey & Gavin White  
Judith H. White

**In Memory of:**

Delores, Donald & Doug Muhs  
PaPa  
Emmy K. Hayes and Wilfred “Bill” Hayes  
My Brother Mike  
My Grandparents (Nana, ReRe, &  
Grampa Bob)  
Robert & Dorothy Harris  
Terry Lynn Paluch  
James Lee Watson, Jr.  
Their Grandfather, James White, Sr.  
James White, Sr.

## **Serving You Today**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers of the Congregation  
Pastor  
Director of Music Ministries  
Greeters/Ushers  
Lay Reader

All Members of First Church  
Rev. Jack Kraaz  
Kiel Krommer  
Elaine Carlin & Ed Maia  
Keith Obert

### **Officers**

Moderator  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Chair, Board of Deacons  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier  
Carol Mullen  
Suzanne Kelley  
Jeanne Dill  
Suzanne Kelley

### **Members at Large**

Lynn Galica  
Elaine Harris  
Mary Newland

### **Staff**

Church Administrator  
Sunday School Superintendent  
Custodian

Lee Brahen  
Erin Greene Wallace  
Linda Whippie

## **Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information**

### ***Church Office Hours***

The church office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed, or contact the office by email at [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org).

### ***Pastor's Hours***

Monday 8:30 - 4:30 *remotely*, and Tuesday - Thursday from 8:30 - 4:30 *in-office*. If you are unable to meet during any of those hours, Pastor Holly is happy to meet outside those times by appointment, and can be reached by email at [pastor@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:pastor@firstchurchmonson.org), or by phone at (808) 371-4701. For urgent matters, please contact her at any time by calling (808) 371-4701.

## IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Carol Snyder

Chris

Martha Warren

Mary Linkenhoker

Ginny

Joanne

Cheryl Howland

Christine Wilson

Karen

Richard D'Aquila

Marlaina

Josh Cash

Joseph B.

Rudy Pyne

Oliver Holden

J. Harris

Wilhelmina Brahen

For comfort in grief:

The Family of Philip Wallander

The Family and Friends of Barry Muldrew

Deb Laviolette and family

For strength and comfort during war and disaster:

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

The people of Palestine and Lebanon

The people of Syria

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr

Malik Pugh, USMC

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Tim Olson, USN

## **This Week in the Life of the Congregation**

April 20, Sunday	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
April 21, Monday	3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts (SA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Trustees (L)
April 22, Tuesday	5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
April 23, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SA) 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Hearts' Willing (F/K)
April 24, Thursday	4:00-10:00 p.m. - Tavern Night 5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
April 26, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel  
F - Fellowship Hall  
K - Kitchen  
L - Library

P - Pastor's Study  
S - Sanctuary  
SA - Sunday School Auditorium  
SS - Sunday School Classroom  
SSC - Silver Street Chapel

## Church News

**Fellowship Update.** There will be no fellowship on Sunday, April 27, as the Music Committee will be setting up for the Jazz Bones reception. Hosts for fellowship are needed for the month of May. If you are interested, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

**FCM Safety Team.** Here at First Church, safety is a top priority. It is even part of our statement of faith: "We will provide a safe haven - physically, emotionally, and spiritually - for all those whom God sends us." As such, the Church Council is developing a safety team, and we are seeking folks interested in serving on this team. If you have a passion for the safety of others, please consider joining this new team, by contacting Cindy DeSellier, or another Church Council member. All are welcome to serve.

**Tavern Night.** The Music Committee invites you to attend Tavern Night this coming Thursday, April 24th. We will have a special music-themed raffle. Celebrate someone special in a new exciting way by entering to win a singing telegram! A group of singers will travel to your loved one and sing four songs, including one of their favorites. After the serenade, the recipient will be given a beautiful spring plant, and a memory that will last a lifetime! The winner can dispatch the singers to anyone within a 10-mile radius of First Church of Monson, and will work with the winner to arrange a date, time, and location. Winner will be drawn on Sunday, April 27, after the Jazz Bones concert.

**Free Concert.** On Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m., the Jazz Bones, under the direction of David Neill, will perform at First Church. The ensemble consists of four tenor trombones, one bass trombone, guitar, bass, and drums. The concert is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the First Church Music Committee and the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Hearts Willing Program.** On Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m., members and friends are invited to hear Tammy McCaffrey of TT&J Honey speak about the lives of bees and their importance in our survival. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend this informative and timely presentation.

**Guidelines for Announcements during Worship Service.** Church Council hopes to streamline the announcement process during the Sunday worship service. Announcements should be printed in the bulletin whenever possible. If you want to make an oral announcement, please follow these guidelines.

1. Give Pastor Holly a short, clearly written announcement for her to read.
2. Sit in the first row near the lectern if you wish to be recognized during announcement time.
3. Write out your announcement so that you can deliver it succinctly.



**Carpet Cleaning.** The Fellowship Hall and staircase carpets will be cleaned on Tuesday, April 29. Please remove small items to facilitate furniture removal.

**All-Church Work Day.** On Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, the trustees are sponsoring an All-Church Work Day. Please come to straighten and clean neglected areas of the church. Bring the cleaning supplies you need to do the jobs that you want to do. You can wash baseboards, dust library books, straighten the Wallace Room, vacuum pew cushions, etc. All workers are welcome!

## Monson



Open Pantry

### May Food Donation Challenge!



Spaghetti Sauce

And



Canned Fruit

Please bring these challenge items in  
**by Sunday, May 18th**  
and place them in the  
**baskets in the Narthex!**

## Welcome to First Church



**Welcome!** If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

**All members and guests** are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

**The Sacrament of Communion** is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

**Handicapped parking** and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

**Fellowship Hour** begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

**Our Let's Eat breakfast** is on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

**Learn more.** If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org), or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*