



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Worship Resources 2017

Prepared by Rev. John Allen Bankson

“Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” –Colossians 3:1

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

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

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

Call to Worship *(Based on Psalm 118)*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The LORD is risen indeed! Alleluia!

O Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Beloved, in the name of the Risen Christ, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer *(Based on Psalm 118)*

We give our thanks and praise to you, Almighty God. You led your people from slavery into the promised land, causing them to confess that your steadfast love endures forever. As you have led us from slavery to sin and death and into the promised land of eternal life, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we too are moved to proclaim: your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude for Christ's resurrection, may we worship you with everything we are and with everything we have this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Confession *(Based on Psalm 118)*

With the LORD on our side, we need not fear. In our distress, we may call upon the LORD, and the LORD will answer us. With confidence in these promises, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Confession of Sin

O God, we have confessed your steadfast love, but in our hearts, we know that we have forgotten your love for us. In raising Jesus Christ from the dead, you shined on us the light of abundant life, yet too often we live as those who are still in the shadow of death and sin. Enfold us in your resurrecting, restoring love. Forgive us our sins, and in the promises of the gospel, which have been confirmed to us in the resurrection of Christ, rekindle our love for you and for others. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness *(Based on Psalm 118)*

Friends, hear the good news! We have called on the Lord, and the Lord has answered us. The Lord is our strength and our song, and has become our salvation. In Christ's rising from the dead, God has opened to us the gates of righteousness. Believe the gospel: through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Call to Offering *(Based on Colossians 3)*

We have been raised with Christ; therefore, may we set our minds on the things of God. Let us dedicate ourselves and our gifts to God, that the justice and peace of God's realm may be extended throughout the world.

Prayer of Dedication *(Based on Colossians 3)*

Loving God, you spared nothing in sending your Son, Jesus Christ. As we have died to self in Christ, our lives are now not our own, but they are hidden with Christ. Use our gifts that we present to you, and use us, to alleviate the suffering of people throughout the world. May we witness to the sacrifice of Christ through lives of service and self-denial. We pray this in the name of the One who loved us and gave himself for us: Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Christ is risen! Alleluia! And by the Holy Spirit, Christ is also here with us, now, as we gather around the table. As we share bread and wine according to Christ's commands, we also share in Christ's body and blood. Christ is here, that our spirits may be nourished and that we may grow in grace. Hear, then, the words of the Risen Christ to his disciples: "All is prepared: come and share this meal."

Prayer after Communion *(Based on Acts 10)*

Almighty God, you have made us your people through the death and resurrection of Christ. By water and the Spirit you have united us to Christ and to one another, and now you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. Strengthened by this meal, may we now go forth to declare that everyone who believes in Christ receives forgiveness of sins through Jesus' name. Amen.

Charge and Blessing (*Based on Colossians 3*)

Christ is risen from the dead, and you have been raised with Christ. Therefore, as those who have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things of the earth. Put off the old self with its selfish practices, and clothe yourselves with the new self, who is Christ, being renewed daily through Christ according to the image of God. And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**