

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
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The First Sunday After Easter
April 11, 2021

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family.

We have resumed **Christian education** classes for all ages through June 27.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Pastor Meyers has written a short guide to our worship. You can find a copy at the Guest Book table in the foyer. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at www.providencestlouis.com.

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine (the grape juice has a darker color than the wine).

Jesus Christ Victor (*Front Cover*)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOCYX*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are **white**. White symbolizes the promise of the glorious transfiguration of our flesh because of the glorification of Jesus in his resurrection from the dead.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — April 11, 2021

The First Sunday After Easter

Preparation For Worship: Colossians 1:15-18

Organ – Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements – Pastor Jeff Meyers

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

†Call to Worship: *Colossians 1:15-18*

†Hymn #174 "Praise the Saviour"

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor Caleb Skogen

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Our help is in the name of the Yahweh!

Psalms 124:8

Who made heaven and earth!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, our Father, grant, we ask, that we who celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this day, may experience afresh the joy and peace we have in union with him, and may our hearts ever thirst for the fullness of redemption that you have promised us in the new heavens and the new earth; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen!

Purification

Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father with an honest heart and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake: [*Congregation kneels*]

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Psalms 32:2

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before you that we are prone to evil and slothful in good, and we have many shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned against you, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us. Teach us to hate our errors and cleanse us from our secret faults. *Silent Prayer. Amen!*

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads, arise, and hear the good news. . . !



Ascension

†Leader: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting, right, and beneficial to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God; but chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life he has restored us to everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing. . .

†The Sanctus



The Hebrew Scripture Reading: *Genesis 15:1-6*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Galatians 3:1-6*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†Easter Hymn “This joyful Eastertide”

1. This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow.
2. My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber;
Till trump from east to west,
Shall wake the dead in number.
3. Death’s flood has lost his chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.

Refrain

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne’er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now hath Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen, arisen.
But now hath Christ arisen!*

Text: George R. Woodward, from <i>Carols for Easter and Ascensiontide</i> , 1894; Music: from Joachim Oudaen’s <i>David’s Psalmen</i> , Amsterdam, 1685; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

†The Gospel Reading: *John 14:1-14*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made:**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,**

and sits on the right hand of the Father.

And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

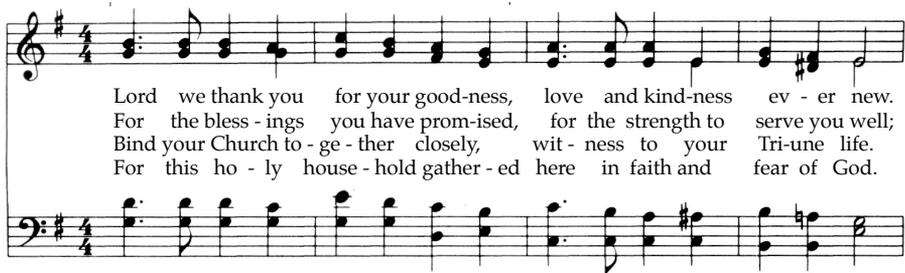
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen!

†The Kyrie



Lord we thank you for your good-ness, love and kind-ness ev - er new.
For the bless - ings you have prom-ised, for the strength to serve you well;
Bind your Church to - ge - ther closely, wit - ness to your Tri-une life.
For this ho - ly house - hold gather - ed here in faith and fear of God.



For the peace that reigns in heav-en; May that peace be ours here, too.
Lord, from foes that plot to harm us, And from Sa-tan, death, and hell.
To the wider world be gra-cious, May your peace ex - pand and grow.
As we of - fer now our wor - ship; hear and help, O Tri-une God

Sermon Text: *John 14:1-14*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: TRUSTING JESUS

LX. AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

The Tribute Offering

†[Hands Raised] Doxology

†Offertory Prayer & Congregation: Amen!

†The Prayer of the Church and the World

Let us now pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and
for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy, hear

our prayers. Heavenly Father, we pray that our civil leaders would govern wisely and competently, and in submission to King Jesus and his word; and we pray especially today for local officials here in Saint Louis. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers.

We pray that the ongoing political unrest in in our country and around the world would result in greater liberty for your people there and for the advancement of the gospel and kingdom of Christ here and abroad. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers

We pray that our nation's troops in harm's way would wage war justly and to a just end, and that military chaplains would faithfully minister Christ to them and to all of our nation's armed forces. O God, cause the reign of Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring peace between all peoples of the earth. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers.

We pray that you would be with the persecuted Church around the world, granting her faithfulness unto death, blessing her witness, and subduing her enemies; we remember especially today persecuted Christians in China. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers.

We pray for our loved ones and friends who suffering from sickness, trouble, or any form of distress. We name them now . . .
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers

We pray that the Church in Saint Louis, America, and throughout the world would be united in the truth of your word and Christian love. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayers.

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial for Bread & Wine

Hymn: #44 (*Psalm 9*) "O Lord Most High" *Trinity Hymnal*

Pastoral Benediction

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the

Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

†Pastoral Prayer: O Almighty God, in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus you have restored and glorified our human nature and all of creation. Continue to send your heavenly gifts to your people that we make walk in perfect freedom and enjoy the benefits of the redeeming work that our Lord has accomplished; through your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

Hymn #53 (*Psalm 146*) "Hallelujah, praise Jehovah" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Easter Charge: *Hebrews 13:20-21*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

Welcome to Providence Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders. You are invited to join us for Christian education classes this morning from 10 till 11:45 AM.

Heidelberg Catechism - Question 52

Q. How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A. In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All his enemies and mine he will condemn to everlasting punishment: but me and all his chosen ones he will take along with him into the joy and glory of the new heaven and earth.

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Needed! — We have an urgent need for nursery volunteers to help with the nursery that has reopened today. Please remember to sing the Nursery Volunteer Sign-up sheet on the WIC table in the church foyer on Sunday. And you can also send Ginny and email note (gsturlaugson@yahoo.com). Thank you.

Temporary Sunday Schedule — Beginning today, we have changed the times for the Sunday worship services and have added Sunday school back into the schedule. This is the new temporary schedule through June 27th.

8:45 AM – Early Worship Service (masks required)

10:00 AM – Sunday School for Adults & Children (masks welcome, but not required)

11:00 AM – Late Worship Service (masks welcome, but not required)

Then, beginning Sunday, July 4th we will return to our normal schedule—one service at 9:30 AM, but no Sunday school till the Fall.

Sunday school will be suspended for July & August and resume on September 5th. On July 4th we return to our normal Sunday schedule without Sunday school. By keeping our two-service schedule for a few more months we will continue to serve members that are either vulnerable to COVID or have to be around others that are vulnerable until more people have had a chance to be vaccinated.

Adult Sunday School Class — Beginning today, we will be holding two adult Sunday school classes between the two services (10–10:45 AM).

- Visitors, Inquirers, & New Members Class – led by Pastor Meyers (location to be announced)
- The Philosophy & Practice of Christian Education – led by Pastor Skogen, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Dinner & Variety Banquet — On April 17, 2021, WIC is hosting a Variety Show & Dinner in the fellowship hall at church. This event is for the whole family!!! The doors will open at 4 PM and the show will start promptly at 4:30 PM, snacks (popcorn & peanuts) will be available during the show. Out of courtesy for the performers who are working hard to put on an awesome show for everyone we ask that everyone be seated and ready for the show by 4:25 PM. After the show we will have a short cocktail time (beer & wine) on the back parking lot. Following that we will have dinner and dessert catered by Andre's.

Men's Evening Bible Study — Our next evening men's Bible study will be next week, Tuesday, April 20th. We are working our way through the life of Abraham. The study begins at 7 PM and ends at 8 PM

Free Venison — John and Debbie Keane have had a great season of harvesting deer this past year. They have some to share. "Please help yourselves to ground venison (1 pound packs) and venison summer sausage(1 1/2-2 lbs) in the kitchen freezer. We have more than we can use. It was a good season."

WIC (Women in the Church) Emails — Ladies if you are not receiving WIC emails (perhaps you are new to the church) and would like to please contact Deena Donnelly or text at 636-208-7335.

Church Calendar

Today	New Temporary Sunday Morning Schedule begins Early Morning Worship at 8:45 Children's & Adult Sunday school 10-10:45 Late Morning Worship at 11:00 AM
Saturday, Apr 17	WIC Variety Show 5 PM
Sunday, Apr 18	Evening Service at 6 PM
Sunday, July 4	Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM No Sunday School

The Lord's Service Explained

Easter Season

In the early, post-apostolic Church it was the feast of Easter that established the starting point of the development of the liturgical church year. The year as a whole receives its "Sunday" at Easter. Just as the first day of the week gives meaning and purpose to the weekly pattern of human life, so also the celebration of Easter in the Spring orients the entire year around the victorious resurrection of Christ for the life of the world. The early Church did not intend for this yearly pattern to replace or weaken the weekly Sunday worship of the church. Rather, the annual pattern was intended to enable the church to understand even better the mystery of Christ's sanctification of all of life, time included.

Early on in the Church's development of the Easter feast, following the weekly pattern, the annual celebration was set within a framework of six weeks of preparation and repentance (called Lent), ending with the rest of Easter. Then, following Easter Sunday, seven weeks of exultation and feasting were decreed, ending in Pentecost and the beginning of an "eighth week." The church, therefore, celebrates a "week of weeks" during the Easter season as a reminder of Christ's comprehensive redemption of all of life, a time of feasting, giving thanks, and praise to the Risen Christ. Easter season ends with the festival of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) which ends the seven weeks and ushers in the world to come (symbolically, the eighth day or week). Use these seven weeks of Easter season not just to meditate and reflect upon the resurrection of our Lord, but also to rejoice, give thanks, and sing about the comprehensive victory that he has accomplished for you.

The color for Easter is white. White symbolizes purity, light, and life. It is the bright "color" of Jesus' glorified humanity after his resurrection and therefore will also be the "color" of our new "clothing" when we are resurrected. Easter hymns can be found in the Trinity Hymnal #197-209, and also #596-609.

An Easter Prayer: O almighty and eternal God, now that you have assured us of the completion of our redemption through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, give us the will to show forth in our lives what we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen.