

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

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. Join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages meeting after the service at 11:10 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. This morning we have suspended our Sunday school classes and our evening prayer service in order to give everyone an opportunity enjoy the day feasting with one another.

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. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: 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** (*IHCIOC*, 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 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

Preparation For Worship: Psalm 16

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeff Meyers

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

†Call to Worship

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

†Hymn of Praise: #198 "Jesus Christ is risen today" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Thanks be to God!

1 Corinthians 15:57

Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, our Father, grant, we ask, that we who celebrate the glorious feast of the resurrection of our Lord, may honor and praise you, who through your only-begotten Son has overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; 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 a honest heart and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake: [Congregation Kneels]

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Psalm 139:23-24

Test me and know my thoughts!

See if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

Most merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that I am not able to understand, but which are all known to you; and therefore I am miserably helpless before my adversaries. For this reason, I flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your forgiveness and deliverance, through my Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayer. Amen.

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

Ascension

†Pastor: 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.

†It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made a glorious home for mankind. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us over all your creatures to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us, your love remained steadfast. When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and graciously covenanted to be our God. By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert, to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You gave your Word to take on our flesh and in him you lived among us, manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and has risen to raise us to new life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your Name. . .

†The Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

†Hymn #204 “Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Trinity Hymnal

The Appointed Scripture Readings for the Easter Sunday

The First Reading: *Acts 10:34-43*

Mr. Caleb Skogen

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Reading from the Psalms: *Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:19-26*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 19:38–20:10*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†The *Kyrie*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

For everlasting is his lovingkindness!

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For everlasting is his lovingkindness!

For the peace that is from above, and for strength and blessing,
let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being of the
churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy.

For this holy household, and for those who in faith, piety, and
fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

O Lord, be gracious unto us.

Hear us, help us, deliver us, and defend us, O Triune God, by
your grace. **Amen!**

†Hymn of Confession & Praise “In Christ alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found;

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This cornerstone, this solid ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

The Sermon

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS: WHAT HAPPENED? SO WHAT?**

†Hymn #200 "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain" *Trinity Hymnal*

The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Choir Anthem "This joyful Eastertide"

1. This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!

My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow.

Text: George R. Woodward, from *The Cowley Carol Book for Christmas, Easter, and Ascension-tide*, 1901, 1902, 1919.

Music: from Joachim Oudaen's *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1685; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926), setting by William H. Harris (1883-1973).

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.
But now hath Christ arisen!*

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.

† [Hands Raised] The Doxology
† An Easter Litany

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

O Christ, after your resurrection you appeared to your disciples; you breathed on them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. You gave joy and exultation to the whole creation. Through your victory, we pray to you:

Hear us, Lord of glory!

O Christ, after your resurrection you sent out your disciples to baptize and teach the nations in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; you promised to be with them and us until the end of the world. Through your victory, we pray to you:

Hear us, Lord of glory!

O Christ, through your resurrection you lifted us up, and filled us with rejoicing. Through your salvation you enrich us with your gifts. Renew our lives and fill our hearts with joy. Through your victory, we pray to you:

Hear us, Lord of glory!

O Christ, you are glorified by angels and redeemed saints in heaven, and you are worshiped by your church on earth. On the

glorious feast of your resurrection, we pray to you:

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Save us, O Christ our Lord, in your goodness, extend your mercy to your people who await the resurrection at the end of history, and have mercy on us.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Heavenly Father, we rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son, and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over the powers of this earth. We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness. By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and that all we are and do may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, now and forever more.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen!

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Bread of Life

Hymn #201 "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia"

Trinity Hymnal

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Wine of Gladness

†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: Glorious Lord of Life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son, you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Give us joy to celebrate Christ's rising from the dead, and a firm hope that we will be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #197 “The day of resurrection”

Trinity Hymnal

†Easter Commission: *Hebrews 13:20-21*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Today:

Morning Service – Catie Hon and Jessica Murphy

No Sunday School This Morning

Nursery Volunteers Next Week:

Morning Service – Brookie Moore and Emily Spear

Sunday School – Jennifer Horne and Joanie Harris

Easter Sunday — Enjoy the Easter feast today with family and friends. There will be no Sunday school and no evening service tonight.

Deacons Fund Offering — If you desire to help those in financial need among us, this Easter Sunday the deacons will collect the monthly deacons fund offering. The deacons distribute money from the deacons fund to those whose financial needs come to the deacons' attention. You can contribute along with your regular offering by designating “Deacons Fund” on the memo line of your check or using the provided envelopes to give cash or check.

New Prayer Chain Contact Person — Debbie Zintel will be serving our congregation by overseeing the prayer chain. Please direct church-wide requests for prayer to Debbie by email or phone or text: 314-221-8913.

Church Work Day — The deacons are calling for a church work day on Saturday, April 21, 8 AM till 12 noon. Come and help us clean up the church for Spring. There are chores to accomplish both outside and inside. There will be a sign-up sheet at church this Sunday. Members can sign up for an area or a specific task. We would like to see multiple members for each activity to encourage fellowship opportunities.

WIC Spring Brunch — The annual Women in the Church (WIC) brunch will be on May 5th at 10:30 AM. Look for more details soon.

WIC Book Discussion Meeting — The next book discussion group will meet at Maggie Montgomery’s home on Monday, April 9, at 7 PM. They will be discussing Wonder by RJ Palacio (recently made into a movie with the same title).

2017 Contribution Statements — Please be sure to pick up your 2017 contribution statement (for tax purposes). They are available on the book table in the narthex.

Parish Groups — Parish Groups will meet on Sunday, April 22.

Bookkeeper/Financial Secretary Position — Providence is looking for a part-time bookkeeper (2-5 hours per week) to hire on an hourly basis. The job description includes keeping track of the church’s finances, payroll for staff, offerings, paying bills, financial reports, etc. The position requires competence in Quickbooks, Excel spreadsheets, and more. If you are interested in a full copy of the job description, please contact Pastor Meyers.

2018 Vacation Bible School Dates — Mark your calendars for the most amazing, incredible, crazy-fun VBS. It’s all happening July 16-20.

Ladies Bible Study — The study meets on Thursday, 9:30 AM.

Church Calendar

Today	Easter Sunday No Sunday School No Evening Service
Wednesday, April 4	Choir practice
Thursday, April 5	Ladies Bible Study at 9:30 AM Rooted Meeting at 7 PM
Monday, April 9	WIC Book Discussion at 7 PM
Saturday, April 21	Church Work Day, 8 AM till 12 noon
Sunday, April 22	Parish Groups meet (no evening service)
Saturday, May 5	WIC Brunch
July 16-20	Vacation Bible School

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 in the basement fellowship hall for coffee and conversation after the service. There will be no Sunday school or evening service today.

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.

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastor & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-374-5258	Ken Pratt	314-803-2340
Tom Hanley	314-750-0203	Monte Shields	314-681-1378
Robert Murphy	314-705-7445	John Moore (Clerk)	314-849-0597
		Jason Carter	636-222-8655

The Deacons

Daryl Hoegemann	314-714-9270	Pat Staebel	314-303-4369
Liessman Sturlaugson	314-323-5589	Todd Tageson	314-892-8982
Skip Jaeggi	314-631-4394		

Women in the Church Officers & Department Heads

President: Bo Hanley	314-283-0674	Nursery: Mary Beth Denney	636-226-5630
Vice President: Kathy Hoegemann		Bethel: Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung	
314-714-9270		Kitchen: Kathy Pratt.	314-856-5778
Secretary: Debbie Keane	314-249-3108	Maggie Montgomery	314-283-0319
Treasurer: Amy Sterner	314-606-6900	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	
Prayer Chain: Debbie Zintel	314-221-8913	Wedding Coordinator:	
madonna.byerly@att.net		Barb Hoover	314-504-3488

Church Staff

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-540-2427
jeffmeyers@me.com	314-374-5258 (C)	Jennifer Vermeer (Secretary)	208-899-9123
Mr. Caleb Skogen (Youth Pastor)		vermeerjennifer@gmail.com	
cskoge10@yahoo.com	910-639-3239		

Pastoral Interns

Joel Nelson	573-825-1104	Caleb Skogen	910-639-3239
Robert Murphy	314-705-7445		

Home and Foreign Ministries

Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (Seattle, WA)
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Graham & Sarah Purcell	MTW (Russia)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Cody & Molly Dotson	Brooklyn, NY
Dan & Becky Young	Mexico	Ryan & Erin Van Horn	Chattanooga, TN
Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia	Georgette	Burundi, Africa
Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City	Hope Community Project	Haiti
Khen & Rith Tombing	India	Missouri Presbytery (PCA)	
(Covenant Children's Home)		Theopolis Institute	Birmingham, AL