

PRELUDE

Solemn Entry

Richard Strauss

Aaron Romm and Ronald Romm, trumpets; **Logan Bryck**, horn;
Brad Williams, trombone; **Aaron Tindall**, tuba, **George Nickson**, timpani.

ANTHEM

On the Third Day

Allen Pote

CALL to WORSHIP

One: One phrase has echoed through the centuries on countless Easter mornings:

Many: ***Christ is risen!***

One: Not past tense, like some historical factoid of way back when, but today, this day:

Many: ***Christ is risen!***

One: The invitation is for our shy souls to awaken to God's presence still forming and fashioning life in the most peculiar places: a tomb! Today we proclaim for all to hear:

Many: ***Christ is risen!***

One: With this truth echoing within us and around us we sing out for all Sarasota to hear the good news of great joy: God's emphatic, "Yes!" to renewed, redeemed, and resurrected. *Alleluia!*

Many: ***Alleluia and amen!***

*OPENING HYMN

Fanfare and Hymn for Easter

arr. Paul Sjolund

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Loves redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of moments that dazzle and delight us; God of moments that befuddle and bewilder us; on this Easter Sunday morning we feel both stirring within us. We give thanks for holy moments when goosebumps race and run down our spines. For the sound of

trumpets, singing, sharing, and celebrating the promise and possibility of new life. We recognize the mystery of life, that not everything can be classified, categorized, and comprehended. We hold lightly that life is not a problem to be solved, but a holy invitation to experience and explore. As Mary showed up at the empty tomb, help us open up to Your presence. As Mary ran back to tell others of the unfathomable joy, let Your love meet us, fill us, and send us out into this world that is hurting and hungry for good news of great joy. May the words of this prayer be written in our hearts, overflow our souls, and be embodied in our lives for the rest of this year. Alleluia, alleluia, and amen!!

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (*Repeat*)
Alleluia, sing praises to the Lamb, Alleluia, Gloria!
Alleluia, we worship and adore; Alleluia to the Lord! (*Repeat*)**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

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. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to 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.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

The Easter Way Of Life

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Yours is the Glory

#253

**Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
 Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
 Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;
 Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.**

*Refrain: Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
 Endless is the victory you o'er death have one.*

**See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;
 Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
 Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
 Tell it without ceasing: death has lost its sting. *Refrain***

**Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,
 Jesus, lives again, gives peace for evermore.
 Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;
 Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. *Refrain***

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March Triomphale

Sigfrid Karg-Elert