

## Sunday, 20 April 2025 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

*He is risen! He is risen indeed!*

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the date of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) — occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/resurrection-lordeaster>

### Prelude

The titles of the three sections of Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) *Fantasia in G Major* are written in French: *Très vite*, *Gravement*, and *Lentement*. One of Bach's most popular works for organ, it is often referred to as *Pièce d'Orgue*.

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924) studied at the Paris Conservatory and won France's premier musical prize, the *Prix de Rome*, in 1861. He later became director of the conservatory but was forced to retire early as a result of a scandal where the faculty attempted to rig the *Prix de Rome* to prevent Maurice Ravel from winning. Ravel's music was considered too "modern" for the conservative faculty at the conservatory. Dubois' *Grand Choeur* for organ was published in a set of 12 pieces in 1886 and is heard this morning in an arrangement for organ and brass.

### Processional Hymn

The tune Easter Hymn first appeared in 1708 in the collection *Lyra Davidica* (the harp of David). The tune was revised by composer John Arnold (1720-1792) in 1749 for his collection *The Compleat Psalmodist*. This is the version we sing today. The first three verses of *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* appeared in *Lyra Davidica* and the fourth verse was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) in 1740 for his collection *Hymns & Sacred Poems*.

### Offertory

Composer Dan Forrest (b. 1978) was born in Breesport, NY. He holds a doctorate in composition from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in piano performance. He is adjunct professor of composition at Furman University. Dr. Forrest's compositions have received international acclaim. The text of *To the Lamb on the Throne* is taken from Charles Wesley's hymn *You Servants of God*, found in our *Glory to God* hymnal #299. Dan Forrest set it to a new tune for his stirring arrangement for choir, organ, brass, and timpani, in 2015.

### Postlude

Charles-Marie Widor was born in Lyon, France on February 21, 1844. In 1870, at the age of 26, Widor was appointed temporary organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, a post he held for 64 years, having never been given the official title of titular! Widor's fifth symphony was composed in 1879. The fifth and final movement of the symphony, the famous *Toccata*, is one of the most recognizable organ compositions and has been featured at numerous royal weddings.