

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

NOON

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Gina Sprunger

Tune: Llanfair Robert Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the dust of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.

HYMN 232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life. Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love. Without your astonishing appearance to your followers and your constant presence throughout the ages, we would be lost. Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the grace and mercy of God, our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God and to one another through our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:1-6

¹At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ²Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²**Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

¹⁷**I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹**Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹**I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 28:1-10

28After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON Empty Tomb, Empty Church – Full Hearts

HYMN 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Refrain

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Refrain

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever.

Refrain

Come let us praise the living God,

Joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rev. Lisa Frenz)

In a time before all knowing, God is, and God's breathe fills the emptiness, creating: a universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and us, humankind. All humankind, no exceptions, no imperfections; and all of us beloved just as we are.

In a time before all knowing, Christ Jesus watches the creating, and steps out into creation: becoming, living, dying, and rising, all for us. All humankind, no exceptions, no reservations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

In a time before all knowing the Spirit is, and moves through every part of creation: consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including us. All humankind, no exceptions, no differentiations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 238 Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Gina Sprunger

Tune: Diademata George J. Elve

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