

Order of Worship for Easter Sunday

April 12., 2020

(Read the prayers and scripture readings and recite the Creed aloud, even if you are by yourself, in order to hear with the ears each one)

Prepare for worship: Sit in silence or with soft music for a few moments

Call to Worship *Dan Greshel*

Lift High the Lord our Banner
Lift High the Lord Jesus King
Lift High the Lord our Banner
Lift High Your Praise to Him
Sing!

Opening Prayer:

God of Mystery and Might, your wondrous love always seems to catch us off guard. We come to the tomb looking for death but find life instead. As we behold the glory of our salvation, take us back to that moment of discovery, when grief and loss gave way to a glimmer of hope. Before we shout our alleluias, remind us of the moment when despair was transported into glimpses of new possibilities. In the holy awe of Easter morning, we take a moment of silent gratitude that Christ calls each of us by name.

(Moment of silence)

Shout it from the mountaintop: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia! Amen

Affirmation of Faith Apostle's Creed

Prayer:

God of Power and Majesty: With the rising of the sun you have raised Jesus Christ and delivered him and us from death's destruction. We praise you on this bright day for all your gifts of new life.

Especially we thank you

for all the victories over sin and evil in our lives...
for loyalty and love of family and friends...
for the newborn, the newly baptized, and those now in your eternal home...
for the renewal of nature...
for the continuing witness of the church of Christ...

God of eternity: you are present with us because of Christ's rising from the dead, and you persist in lifting us to new life in him. We bring to you our prayers for this world in need of resurrection.

Especially we pray

for nations and people in strife...
for the poor and impoverished, at home and abroad...
for those we know in particular circumstances of distress...
for the diseased and the dying...
for all how follow the risen Christ...
through the same Jesus our Lord who taught us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Illumination:

Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds
that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

(After each reading take two to three minutes to reflect upon the meaning of the passage to you today)

New Testament Reading Acts 10: 34-43

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Epistle Reading Colossians 3: 1-4

Special Music *Christopher McCroskey*

Gospel Reading Matthew 21: 1-11

Sermon Go and Tell the Good News!

Hymn *Easter People Raise Your Voices*

Easter People, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter People, let us sing

Fear of Death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.

For our Lord empowered us
to triumph over every foe.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

On to victory we go.

Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.

When in trouble move the faster
to the God who rights the wrong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

See the power of heavenly throngs.

Benediction:

We are sent forth in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

Response: *Dan Greshel*

Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Take all our sin and guilt away
Our souls He now will save
From death to Life
From earth to sky
He rises from the grave
From the grave
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia
Christ is risen alleluia

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

Go, Tell the Good News

Matthew 28: 1-10

The two Marys came to the tomb. They came to the place where they had seen where the body of Jesus had been laid by Joseph of Arimathea after the crucifixion. They came to continue the vigil they had begun which was interrupted by the Sabbath. They had watched as Joseph rolled the stone across the entrance of the tomb. They had seen the guard come to keep the body from being stolen. They came back to the tomb after the Sabbath.

They came to see the tomb. The word *theoreo* means to see more in terms of watching or experiencing. They came to watch, to experience, what? Death? Grief? To mourn? That is often what we tend to think, that they came to the tomb that morning to continue their mourning. But perhaps they came that morning wondering. Perhaps they came with maybe a bit of hope.

They had been with Jesus. They had followed him from Galilee and provided for him. As they provided for him, they also heard him. They heard his teaching. They heard him saying that he would be mocked, flogged and crucified. But they also heard him say that on the third day he would be raised. So they may have come with hope on this the beginning of the third day after the crucifixion.

They came at dawn, that time when the first light of the sun is breaking through the darkness of the night. But instead of the gentle rising of the sun over the horizon there came an earthquake, and an angel of the Lord, a messenger from God, came down with an appearance like lightning! Shaking Earth! Bright dazzling light! The guards who were supposed to watch the dead became like dead men. And the angel rolled the stone away from the tomb and told them, "He is not here, he has been raised. Come, see where he lay."

What they had hoped had become a reality. Their hope that perhaps, maybe, Jesus would be raised from the dead as he had said had actually happened. Their hope had become their reality. They heard it from the angel. They saw it for themselves. **JESUS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!**

Their faith, their trust and confidence in the word that Jesus had said have been rewarded. What they hoped had come to fruition. They knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that all the teachings, all they had seen and heard from Jesus was true. They also knew the reward for being a faithful disciple.

So, they left the tomb with a combination of fear, fear in the sense of awe, and joy to go and tell the disciples, when suddenly Jesus met them. Jesus was there with them, walking with them, greeting with a simple casual, hello. Jesus the risen Savior was with them!

This is our hope of Easter. This is what we know by the resurrection. That death to sin has been overcome and no longer has a hold on us. The promise of life eternal is real. Life does not end at our physical death, but continues on in God's presence.

We also have the hope that God overcomes all the mechanizations of evil powers. No matter what human powers may do to destroy that which God created as good, God will overcome and the evil powers will be like the guards at the tomb - like dead men.

We also have the hope that we do not have to wait for death to see Jesus, but Jesus walks with us now. As Jesus greeted the Marys, and walked with them, so does Jesus walk with us. This promise is reaffirmed in Jesus' final instructions to the disciples, the Great Commission, which ends the Gospel, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (28:20b, NRSV).

Death overcome. Evil powers overcome. Jesus with us always. This is our hope!
What Good News!

The Marys are instructed by the Angel to go and tell the disciples. After they meet and worship Jesus, he instructs them to go and tell. Go and tell my brothers that they will see me in Galilee. Go and give them the message I have for them telling them where they will see me.

This is the second message of Easter. It is not that this good news of hope is ours alone, but we are commanded to go and tell. We are not to just sit back wherever we are on this Easter Morning but we are to Go and Tell. We are to raise our voices and let the whole world know of this hope of Easter. We are to let the world know that death has been overcome. We are to let the world know that all

evil powers will be overcome. We are to let the whole world know that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit walks with us through this life and beyond.

As Easter people we are to tell the world that the sound of heaven rings with the hope of Easter. As William M. James expresses so beautifully in his hymn *Easter People Raise Your Voices*:

Easter People, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choirs;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter People, let us sing

Fear of Death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us
to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory we go.

Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to the God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.

AMEN!



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John D. Jordan
Pastor

I know that on Easter we are all compelled to come to church to worship and give praise for the resurrection. However on this Easter I must ask that we not come together in body. I know this will be strange and different for all of us. But we must remember that as Easter People every day is Easter. When this crisis is over we will come together to celebrate the risen Lord. Not on this Easter Day but on whatever Easter day it may be. This Easter we worship together in Spirit so that we all may come together in the future.

Keep safe and healthy for your sake and the sake of others.

Shalom,
Pastor John