

WORSHIP – April 19, 2020

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter is more than a holiday we observe once a year.

Easter is our faith! Easter is the hope we carry deep within our spirits.

We are an Easter People! This makes a difference in our lives.

We live with hope amid trouble, we live with joy even amid trials!

We are an Easter People, this is our faith!

God calls us to live the resurrection message of Jesus: to love, forgive, and serve.

This will change us and transform the world. Jesus is risen!

He is risen indeed!

A BRIEF CONFESSION

In the power of the risen Lord, we make our confession to God.

Gracious and forgiving God, we seek your pardon for actions that have caused harm; for the lack of action that could have been an expression of your love. Forgive and heal us Lord.

We rest in the mercy of a compassionate God. We are an Easter people; we are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

GREETING

The Lord be with you

May the risen Christ fill you with love, the power to forgive, and the energy to serve.

Thanks be to God. Jesus is risen. Alleluia! AMEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st reading - Acts 2:14a,22-28, 32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

2nd reading - Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.’

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,

in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out

or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Gospel reading – John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

<https://vimeo.com/407318978/4b5b29f9bb>

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Easter is a celebration of life and new life. Therefore, we proclaim our belief in God who created a universe of great wonder. God has created us from the very elements of the earth; in the image of the Creator we are made. With God's Spirit woven into the fabric of our being we are called to be caretakers of creation.

Easter is a celebration of life and new life. Therefore we proclaim our belief in Jesus Christ, sent by God to be a living example of God's desire for the world. We believe that in Jesus, the powers of darkness and death have no claim over us, that our broken lives find healing in God's compassionate mercy. Jesus is that compassion and mercy risen and alive in the world today.

Easter is a celebration of life and new life. Therefore we proclaim our belief in the power of God's Holy Spirit. This Spirit equips us to be the light and life of Jesus in the world. This Spirit is the energy of God's embrace active within us through what we do and what we say as the People of God. Thanks be to God for life and new life! Christ is risen! Alleluia! AMEN!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray:

*We give back to you, O Lord, a portion of what you have first given us. With the vision of the resurrection ever before us we are assured that you provide for us in every way. Inspire us to generosity so that your life giving presence may be felt beyond these walls and beyond **our lives. As you have blessed us, so do we seek to be a blessing. AMEN***

BENEDICTION

*In great mercy, God has given us a new birth
into a living hope,
for it is the risen Christ
who stands in our midst and says,
"Peace be with you!"
We go forth to walk the path of new life
and living hope.
And may the peace of the risen Christ be with us!*

DISMISSAL

*We are people of the resurrection!
We live with hope and we serve with love. thanks be to god!*