

WORSHIP – April 26, 2017

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*May the Risen Christ journey with us as we walk our paths of faith.
Like with the disciples on the Emmaus Road, Lord, reveal yourself to us.
We want to be on a journey of faith that moves us closer to God.
Like with the disciples, Lord, open our minds to see you in new ways and in unlikely people.
Draw us closer to God and each other in the love of Christ.*

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 journey with us today in this time of worship
We open our hearts, our minds, and our spirits to the living Christ. AMEN*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st reading - Acts 2:14a, 36-39

*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.
Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'*

2nd reading - Psalm 116:1-3, 5, 12-19

*I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!*

Gospel reading – Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

<https://vimeo.com/410010615/90ed3fc8d1>

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are an Easter People we proclaim our belief in a God of life. In the image of the Creator we are made. God's Spirit is woven into the fabric of our being and we are called to be caretakers of creation.

We are an Easter People, we proclaim our belief in Jesus Christ. 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.

We are an Easter People, we proclaim our belief in God's gift of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit empowers us be the light and life of Jesus in the world. This Spirit is the energy of God's embrace active within us and through what we do and what we say.

Thanks be to God for life and new life! Christ is risen! Alleluia! AMEN!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God our Sanctuary, we lament that we cannot gather today for public worship, that death stalks the church, and that our sorrows and fears blunt our songs of Alleluia. Show the church your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.

God our Creator, we lament that our lifestyles have harmed your creation and that our efforts to repair your earth are now postponed. . . Show the earth your mercy: Your mercy endures forever. And yet we praise you for the beauty of the natural world, for springtime flowers and budding trees, for the soil and rain that nourish the crops. . . We praise you for the earth: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Governor, we lament that war and violence still rage, that countless people suffer injustice, that the plight of refugees seems beyond solution, that appropriate governmental action is delayed and inadequate. Show the world your mercy: Your mercy endures forever. And yet we praise you that there are places in our world where there is peace, that some elected officials and many aid agencies are devoting themselves to save the people and to share our food, and that we are given connection to friends and family through technology. We praise you for community: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Physician, we lament all who suffer, but especially we lament the coronavirus and its incalculable suffering, the many thousands sick, the fear instilled, the loss of employment, the cancellation of plans, the overflow in hospitals, the scarcity of supplies, the exhaustion of medical staff. Show all the needy your mercy. And yet we praise you for health and well-being wherever it thrives, for the dedication of medical workers, for the goodwill of volunteers, for the generosity of benefactors, and for the comfort we receive from the power of the resurrection. We praise you for healing: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God, our Everlasting Arms, mother us in our heartache and distress, receive now our personal prayers or family, neighbors, friends, our nation, the world.

Time for silent prayer

We praise you for hearing my prayers: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Life Eternal, we lament the thousands dead and the sadness of all who mourn, and we remember before you all who have died. Show to all humanity your mercy: Your mercy endures forever. God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are the Source of life, you are the Word of salvation, and you are the Power of mercy, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your compassion, for the sake of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERING (Please continue to mail your offerings to the church – 4300 N 82nd St. Scottsdale, AZ 85251)

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

May the peace of God be in your heart

May the grace of God be in your words

May the love of God be in your hands

May the joy of God be in your soul and in the song that your life sings. Amen.

DISMISSAL

We are people of the resurrection!

We live with hope and we serve with love. Thanks be to God!