

A Little



Encouragement

Online Worship Resource (Sunday, April 16, 2023)

Second Sunday of Easter

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: Orthodox Easter N. Rimsky-Korsakoff
“And he said to them. “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem.”
Luke 24:46-47
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Barbara Yost, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

God has given us a new birth in the living hope of Christ’s resurrection.

God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

In this we rejoice, no matter our circumstances.

For although we have not seen Jesus, we believe in him and love him.

For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

Let us worship!

Hymn #248

Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us, Sing Hosanna everyone!

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

God, who has been made known to us in the power of Christ's resurrection, will not abandon us. In gratitude, let us confess the truth about our lives. Please pray with me our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession

God, you make known to us the ways of wholeness and life, but too often, we put other things above your ways. We turn from the life-giving fountain of your peace and grace and turn toward the ways of death—selfishness, pride, fear, and a critical spirit. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence where we may know fullness of joy. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, as the psalmist assures us, God is our refuge and will never abandon us. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God through the power of Christ's resurrection.

God's mercy brings peace and joy. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Response: #240 Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to His name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to His name.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Guiding and encouraging God, send your Holy Spirit to show us, through the reading of your Word, the path of life that leads us to the joy of your presence. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 16:7-11

OT p. 496

(Liturgist)

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

A Little Encouragement

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn #727 v. 1-4

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

Grateful for God's goodness and for all the saints who have encouraged us throughout our lives, let us respond in gratitude by sharing generously of what has been entrusted to us. Offering plates are available in the front and back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts this morning. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication...

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, encouraged by your grace at work in our lives, we joyfully share what you've given us, that others may be blessed and encouraged to seek you. Multiply our gifts, we pray, that they may bring the joy of your presence to our neighbors near and far. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn #2241

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free; where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

The let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Benediction

Postlude:

The Strife is O'er

Arr. Hal Hopson

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;

The son of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music, Barbara Yost, liturgist and Glenn Fahrig, technology team