

Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:15 AM on March 31, 2024

Quiet Time Prayer #321 *UMH* "Sundays of Easter"

Welcome

Prelude "Good Christian Folk, Rejoice and Sing" *Alec Wyton*
"Fanfare 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'" *Arranged by Lee W. Kersten*

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day The Gospel of Mark has how many endings? A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

***Hymn** #2111 *FWS* "We Sang Our Glad Hosannas"

Call to Worship

Come to celebrate amazing good news!

We gather for worship in awe and wonder.

Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ!

This is the day that our God has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation

We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing presence. We need to be welcomed into the community of faith in spite of our doubts and faithlessness. Through the Holy Spirit may we receive new life. Amen.

Mark 16:1-8 *New Revised Standard Version*

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Shorter Ending of Mark: And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

The Longer Ending of Mark [16:9-20]: Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **[Other ancient authorities add, in whole or in part: And they excused themselves, saying, “This age of lawlessness and unbelief is under Satan, who does not allow the truth and power of God to prevail over the unclean things of the spirits. Therefore reveal your righteousness now” – thus they spoke to Christ. And Christ replied to them, “The term of years of Satan’s power has been fulfilled, but other terrible things draw near. And for those who have sinned I was handed over to death, that they may return to the truth and sin no more, that they may inherit the spiritual and imperishable glory of righteousness that is in heaven.”]** And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

***Hymn #317 UMH** “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” *Verses 1-3, 5*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call 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

Holy God, we confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love. Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning 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.

Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus’ resurrection is our rock and our salvation. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

The Gospel of Mark has how many endings? A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

The Gospel of Mark has how many endings? **1, 2, 3, or 4 – more or less!**

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. Bless these gifts that we bring and all who will be blessed through them. In your name as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever, we pray. Amen.

Song of Offering #94 UMH “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Sermon “Afraid of Easter?” Rev. Joyce Rich

Holy Communion *Everyone should have a sealed chalice set.*

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Let us join in prayer by singing the “**Preface**” #2257-a FWS

Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise this day because you have chosen us to be your people, and we have received your mercy. **You have raised Jesus from the dead to make him the cornerstone of our new life with you.** And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your holy name and join in singing the “**Sanctus**” #2257-b FWS All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus, the risen Lord of life, who rose victorious from the grave and made the whole creation new. **He broke bread with sinners, fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed, then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.**

With thanksgiving we remember how Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “**Take eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**” After supper Jesus took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you; he gave it to his disciples, and said: “**Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often you drink it, in remembrance of me.**” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus the Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith in the “**Memorial Acclamation**” #2257-c FWS

Recalling Jesus’ life, death, and glorious resurrection, we offer you these gifts of bread and cup, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus the Christ; **that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.** Through your Son Jesus the Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever, as we join together in the “**Great Amen**” #2257-d FWS

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together the Lord’s Prayer:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements *Use the bread and cup that you have.*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Let us take, eat, and remember.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Let us take, drink, and remember.

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of our Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn** #302 *UMH* “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” *Verses 1-4*

***Commission and Blessing**

Go from here renewed and strong, knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty, and present.

We will look for the blessings that await us this week.

Now may the truth of the empty tomb – the astonishing reality of Jesus’ resurrection –

keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life.
May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.
Amen. **And Amen.**

Announcements

Postlude “Alla Marcia ‘Victory’” *Carl Wilhelm Kern*

Read for Next Week: John 20:19-31; I John 1:1—2:2

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; **Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion**; **Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; and **The United Methodist Book of Worship** © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.*