

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Resurrection of the Lord

April 12, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GREETING

May we meet the Lord in this place, on this day as we offer our gratitude and thanksgiving for the gift of everlasting life with joy! Grace and peace to you from our resurrected, living Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

God, this is the day that you have made! You have filled it with signs of your presence through Christ with the bread we will share, symbolizing his body; and the juice we will drink, symbolizing his blood. Your Spirit's breath permeates every moment. Your grace fills each experience and your promises come to life within your Word, pulling each of us toward hope. Receive our thanks. Receive our praise. Through Christ our Lord, we pray, for in his love we know your deep love, your faithfulness, and your grace. Amen

VOLUNTARY

Easter Celebrations
Melody Davis, Organ, Brass Quartet

Arr. Joel Raney

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn in a manger. Very early in the morning, the good news was shared with frightened friends, that Jesus was risen and alive in our midst. Let us confess the fears and the amazement we bring this morning, trusting in the mercy of our risen Lord. With word and heart, we pray together believing in God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live. Yet the smooth stones of our faith are inscribed not with the marks of death, but with the word, "Alleluia!" So on this Easter morning, we pray that you will fill us with "awe and great joy" so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death, we may instead find the radiant new life that is ever before us in your resurrection! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Christ did not come to condemn, but to free. Christ was raised from death not to judge, but to save. Christ lives! We live! All is made new on this resurrection morning!

Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONSE 581 *Glory be to the Father*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 565*) Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ANTHEM

Worthy Is the Lamb
Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Organ

G. F. Handel from "Messiah"

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 114*) John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The grass withers; the flowers fade, but the Word of our Lord lasts forever. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN 238 Thine Is the Glory!

SERMON

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Ephesians 2

By his mighty power God raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ and seated him at his right hand in heaven; far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the age to come. God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything everywhere and always. Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

We are witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God. We come now, in thanksgiving, to share the good news of forgiveness and grace to all the world. Let our gifts of time, talent, and money be a living testimony to those who most need the healing grace of Christ, our cornerstone of faith and joy for the entire world.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Since by Man Came Death
Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Organ

G.F. Handle from "Messiah"

*RESPONSE *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE INVITATION

On this most wondrous of mornings, we are reminded that no rock, no obstacle, no impossibility can match the capacity of God's astonishing love in Jesus Christ. At the invitation of our Lord, we gather around this, and every Table, with the offering of bread and drink, symbols of the living Christ among us. At this Lord's Table, all are welcomed! Come as you are to be in communion with God and one another.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Living God, on this most joyous day we offer thanks and praise to you-creator of heaven and earth; creator and lover of all humanity. When people rejected your ways, you never rejected them, but spoke words of mercy and love through the prophets, promising a new creation where people will live life to the fullest. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth, we praise your holy name, singing:

*RESPONSE 552 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy God, this meal which we share is the celebration that death has been defeated forever through Jesus Christ, our beloved Lord. He graced lives with healing and hope, with compassion and power and gave his very life for us. Through his resurrection Jesus has given us the gift of everlasting life. And, so we offer our praise as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

*RESPONSE 555 *Lamb of God*

God of all power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the life of Christ, a life made visible through our faithful witness to him.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, in life, in death and in life beyond death, you are our rock! Jesus is our Lord. Your Holy Spirit is our counselor. When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light. We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to continue being your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love and who now lives again, that we might live in the fullness of your good creation, gifted to us from the beginning of time, to times end. We give you our thanksgiving, as through your son, our Lord, you equip us with everything we need to live in and do your will. May we embrace and share this gift like none other we have received. And, together, as we give thanks, we remember the prayer of our Lord that tells us you provide enough of all things for us: **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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take eat. This is my body given for you. Do this remembering me.

In the same way, he took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this remembering me.

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*COMMUNION RESPONSE

Hallelujah!
Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Organ

G.F. Handel from Messiah

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious, God, here at this Table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer, and we give you thanks as out into your world we go to share your love, your presence, your grace and your new life offered to all. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

*DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

The living Lord IS with us: Behind us encouraging us; beside us befriending us, above us watching over us; within us giving us the gifts of faith, hope and love; beneath us holding us; and, always before us showing us the way! Amen

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 245 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

***Wherever you may be, feel free to stand if you wish.**