

Worship Plan for Sunday, April 9, 2023

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

Introduction to the day

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 9, 2023

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY

The Stone-Moving Power of God

Special effort had been taken to seal up Jesus’ tomb. Pilate and the religious authorities had taken great care to make absolutely certain there was no way Jesus’ followers could move that stone themselves. They posted armed guards all around.

If they had had the technology back then, we could well imagine that floodlights, security cameras, and an alarm system would have been added to the tomb. But none of that would have mattered. For nothing in heaven or on earth could have stopped the stone-moving power of our God. An angel messenger comes in a brilliant flash to roll that stone away, and then he sits on it to share the good news that Jesus is alive. What had been intended by those who persecuted Jesus as a *period*—a full stop for the Jesus movement—becomes a *pulpit* for proclamation: “Do not be afraid!” (Matthew 28:5). Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

As we remember the story of Jesus’ resurrection, we tune our hearts and minds to trust that this God who brings life out of death is still at work. What stones might God be moving today? Might we sense the Spirit at work in our lives here and now, rumbling the ground of our hearts and rolling away the messages of shame, fear, or rejection that have weighed us down? Might God be at work, rolling away stones of oppression and injustice in our world? Might we be sent, like these women, to not let fear rule our hearts, but to go, tell, and witness to a God who continues to open up a new future for us? Yes! The risen Christ appears to us today—present in word, and bread and wine, and water—ready to bless, nourish, call, and send. Nothing can stop this God. Jesus Christ is risen, indeed—Alleluia!

GATHERING

PRELUDE OF BRASS!

RESURRECTION GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

WELCOME & INTRO TO THE DAY (ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

GATHERING SONG (ELW p. 203)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from Colossians.

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME -- KRISTIN

SERMON -- PR HALLIE

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 206)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for (*Dietrich Bonhoeffer and*) all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world (*places of concern or conflict may be named*) that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized (*especially*) and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise (*especially*), free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING MEDITATION MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION -- IN UNISON

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have
nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus'
name.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW p. 209)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE