

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday



Holy Women at the Tomb, Ilyas asim Khuri Bazzi Rahib, 1684

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

From the chaos before creation
and the destruction of the flood.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

From the devastating sacrifice
and the armies of the enemy.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

From the vanity of wickedness
and the bread that only perishes.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

From the power of the oppressor
and the hardness of our own hearts.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

From the valley of dry bones
and the furnace of blazing fire.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

From the belly of the beast
and the disgrace of exile.

O Lord of life, deliver us.

God of mercy,
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.
From the waters of death you raise us with him
and renew your gift of life within us.
Increase in our minds and hearts
the risen life we share with Christ,
and help us to grow as your people
toward the fullness of eternal life with you,
through Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

#232

1 Jesus Christ is risen today,

Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day,

Alleluia!

who did once upon the cross,

Alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss.

Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,

Alleluia!

unto Christ, our heavenly King,

Alleluia!

who endured the cross and grave,

Alleluia!

sinner to redeem and save.

Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured,

Alleluia!

our salvation have procured.

Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King,

Alleluia!

where the angels ever sing.

Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above,

Alleluia!

praise eternal as God's love.

Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host,

Alleluia!

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

Brightness of God's glory
and exact image of God's person,
whom death could not conquer
nor the tomb imprison,
as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
help us to share your immortality in the Spirit.
Let no shadow of the grave terrify us,
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
as the first and the last, the Living One,
our immortal Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness,
interceding with sighs too deep for words.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with all the saints.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen

Response in Praise

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

#591

Refrain:

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A Time with Children

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lay Leader: Pat Wolff

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they

entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But 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. ⁷But 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." ⁸So 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.

Sermon

Terror and Amazement

Hymn

Thine is the Glory

#238

**1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.**

**2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (*Refrain*)**

**3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;**

aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (*Refrain*)

Confession of Faith

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow #606

Prayer of Dedication

Eternal God,
we praise you that your glory has dawned on us,
and brought us into this Day of Resurrection.
We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son,
and that he has conquered death,
risen to rule over all powers of this earth.
We praise you that he summons us into new life,
to follow him with joy and gladness.
By your Spirit,
lift us from doubt and despair,
and set our feet in Christ's holy way,
that our lives may be signs of his life,
and all we have may show forth his love.
Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you,
our God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Communion Hymn *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* #498

**1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.**

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.

In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light.

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.

Jesus speaks across the ages:

“I am with you; do not fear!”

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care.

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of 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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.
At your word the earth was made
and spun on its course among the planets.
Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth
and set us among all your creatures
to love and serve you.
When we were unfaithful to you
you kept faith with us.
When we were slaves in Egypt,
you broke the bonds of our oppression,
brought us through the sea to freedom,
and made covenant to be our God.
By a pillar of fire
you led us through the desert
to a land flowing with milk and honey,
and set before us the way of life.
You spoke of love and justice in the prophets,
and in the Word made flesh you lived among us,
manifesting your glory.
He died that we might live,
and is risen to raise us to new life.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
whom you sent to save us.
He came with healing in his touch,
and was wounded for our sins.
He came with mercy in his voice,
and was mocked as one despised.
He came with peace in his heart,
and met with violence and death.
By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb,
and at his command the gates of hell were opened.
The one who was dead now lives.
The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation,
the Lamb upon the throne.
The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ,
and with all who are baptized in his name,

that we may be one in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Nourished at this table, O God,
may we know Christ's redemptive love
and live a new life in him.
Give us who are fed at his hand,
grace to share our bread with the hungry
and with the hungry of heart.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever.

Amen.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion

*Please partake of the communion elements at home as the participants in the
sanctuary partake.*

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#245

1 "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Blessing and Charge

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever.

Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.
Go and tell this good news to all.

Amen.

Response

Be Still and Know That I Am God

#414

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Postlude