

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements

The Prelude & Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

### The Salutation

2 Corinthians 1:2

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Call to Worship

Psalm 118:17-24 (Responsively)

- <sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
**and recount the deeds of the LORD.**
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD has disciplined me severely,  
**but he has not given me over to death.**
- <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
**that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
**the righteous shall enter through it.**
- <sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
**and have become my salvation.**
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
**has become the cornerstone.**
- <sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
**it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### Hymn #360

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today," *Alleluia!*  
sons of men and angels say; *Alleluia!*  
raise your joys and triumphs high; *Alleluia!*  
sing ye heav'ns and earth reply. *Alleluia!*
2. Love's redeeming work is done; *Alleluia!*  
fought the fight, the battle won; *Alleluia!*  
lo, the sun's eclipse is o'er; *Alleluia!*  
lo, he sheds his blood no more. *Alleluia!*
3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; *Alleluia!*  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell; *Alleluia!*  
death in vain forbids him rise; *Alleluia!*  
Christ hath opened paradise. *Alleluia!*
4. Lives again our glorious King; *Alleluia!*  
where, O death, is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*  
Once he died, our souls to save; *Alleluia!*  
where thy victory, O grave? *Alleluia!*

5. Soar we now where Christ hath led, *Alleluia!*  
 foll'wing our exalted head; *Alleluia!*  
 made like him, like him we rise; *Alleluia!*  
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Alleluia!*
6. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*  
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*  
 thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*  
 hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

**\*The Invocation & Prayer of Praise**

**-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-**

**The Call to Confession**

Romans 7:18-20

<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**The Confession of Sin**

- ❖ Silent Prayers of Confession
- ❖ General Prayer of Confession

Unison:

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, send Your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech You, that we may henceforth live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Assurance of Pardon**

Romans 4:22-25

<sup>22</sup> That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

**Hymn #365**

*Thine Be the Glory*

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:  
 endless is the vict'ry 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 be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
 endless is the vict'ry 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 her 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 conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:  
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above. *[Refrain]*

### **The Prayer of the Church**

Psalm 86:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. <sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

### **-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-**

#### **Hymn #357**

*The Day of Resurrection!*

1. The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from this world to the,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
let earth her song begin;  
let all the world keep triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen,  
their notes let all things blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

### **The Old Testament Reading**

Numbers 18:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Aaron, "Behold, I have given you charge of the contributions made to me, all the consecrated things of the people of Israel. I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual due. <sup>9</sup> This shall be yours of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering of theirs and every sin offering of theirs and every guilt offering of theirs, which they render to me, shall be most holy to you and to your sons. <sup>10</sup> In a most holy place shall you eat it. Every

male may eat it; it is holy to you. <sup>11</sup> This also is yours: the contribution of their gift, all the wave offerings of the people of Israel. I have given them to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. <sup>12</sup> All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the Lord, I give to you. <sup>13</sup> The first ripe fruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. <sup>14</sup> Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours. <sup>15</sup> Everything that opens the womb of all flesh, whether man or beast, which they offer to the Lord, shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man you shall redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. <sup>16</sup> And their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. <sup>17</sup> But the firstborn of a cow, or the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat, you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar and shall burn their fat as a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the Lord. <sup>18</sup> But their flesh shall be yours, as the breast that is waved and as the right thigh are yours. <sup>19</sup> All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the Lord I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord for you and for your offspring with you.” <sup>20</sup> And the Lord said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.

## **The New Testament Reading**

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. <sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

### **The Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

*Firstfruits and the Harvest*

1 Corinthians 15

### **Hymn #369**

*Worship Christ, the Risen King! (v 1-4)*

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voices,  
Christ has conquered death and hell.  
Sing as all the earth rejoices;  
resurrection anthems swell.  
Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the risen King!
2. See the tomb where death had laid him,  
empty now, its mouth declares:  
"Death and I could not contain him,  
for the throne of life he shares."  
Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the risen King!
3. Hear the earth protest and tremble,  
see the stone removed with pow'r;  
all hell's minions may assemble,  
but cannot withstand his hour.  
He has conquered,  
he has conquered,  
Christ the Lord, the risen King!
4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur,  
scoffers mock and sinners jeer,  
but the truth proclaims a wonder  
thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.  
He is risen,  
he is risen,  
now receive the risen King!

### **-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-**

#### **The Confession of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

Unison:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

- ❖ Words of Institution
- ❖ The Breaking of the Bread
- ❖ The Sharing of the Cup

### **-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-**

#### **The Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13:14

<sup>14</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### **The Doxology**

*#369 - Worship Christ, the Risen King! (v 5)*

5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus,  
now we sing your victory;  
sin or hell may seek to seize us,  
but your conquest keeps us free.  
Stand in triumph,  
stand in triumph,  
worship Christ, the risen King!

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The *Postlude* (\*Please stand if you are able). Scripture quotations taken from the ESV.  
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