

April 8, 2023, The Easter Vigil

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft; Susan Sheppard, DLM
Preaching: Rev. John Maich
Music Leadership: Amy Dalziel and Glenda Winsor
Ushers: Marilyn Adams, Jean Thompson
and Theresa Roberts-Morrissey

We Gather in Sorrow

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

OPENING PRAYER

READING 1: Matthew 16:20-25

RESPONSE: "O God, Why Are You Silent?" (*MV 73, v. 1 and 2*)

READING 2: Psalm 22:1-19

RESPONSE: "O God, Why Are You Silent?" (*MV 73, v. 3 and 4*)

READING 3: Matthew 27:57-60

RESPONSE: "O God, Why Are You Silent?" (*MV 73, v. 5*)

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

We Look Forward in Hope

KINDLING THE NEW FIRE: Genesis 1:1-2:2

RESPONSE: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" (*VU 166, v. 1*)

READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

RESPONSE: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" (*VU 166, v. 2*)

READING: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

RESPONSE: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" (*VU 166, v. 3*)

READING: John 12:23-26

We Celebrate with Hope

LIGHTING OF CANDLE

EXSULTET (Easter Song of Praise)

*Each time the worship leader says Hallelujah!, please respond **Hallelujah, we give thanks!***

RESPONSE: “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” (VU 179)

As we sing together, everyone lights each other’s candles.

EASTER GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

RESPONSE: Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks for the Risen Christ. Hallelujah, hallelujah, give praise to God’s name.

MESSAGE: Rev. John Maich

We Respond in Faith

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the word made flesh, and works in us and others through the Spirit? **(I do, by God’s grace.)**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus, living with respect for all creation, loving and serving others, seeking justice and resisting evil? **(I will, by God’s grace.)**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope, and join with others to make known God’s reign?

(I will, by God’s grace.) Renew your baptism and be thankful!

Following the renewal of our baptismal promises, the congregation is sprinkled with water as a reminder of their baptism.

OFFERTORY

We present our gifts in support of Bridges to Hope. Everyone sings “Halle, Halle, Halle” (VU p. 958)

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed!**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right to praise you, Living God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us your holy breath, calling us to be your children. And though at times we forgot that call and wandered away from you, you remained

steadfast. Again and again you restored your people, calling them to be a source of blessing to the nations. Grateful for this abiding love we join your angels and saints in a song of praise:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One
who comes in God's name. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We praise and thank you Redeeming God, for your Son, Jesus Christ. You affirmed him as your beloved child and through his death, and resurrection, gave birth to your Church. Called to embody his love in the world, we remember how on the night before Jesus died, he took bread and after giving you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my life-blood. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me."

We do remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we live into Jesus' promise that he would not drink of the vine again until drinking it new in your kingdom. The in-breaking of this kingdom is what we celebrate this night, your new life revealed in resurrection. Let us proclaim then the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray, Gracious God, that you open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit, here with us and within these gifts of bread and wine. May all who share this living bread and saving cup be renewed in your grace and affirmed in your love, sharing what it means to be your children, a source of blessing to the nations.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (in unison)

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 and ever. Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

There is a central station to receive bread (served with tongs), and two side stations to receive juice served in communion glasses. There is a gluten free option. If you need to stay in your seat to receive communion, someone will bring it to you once everyone who wishes has received.

COMMUNION HYMN: "We Gather Here" (Voices United 469)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison):

Holy God, here at this table we have tasted your promise of new life and welcomed you into our lives. Strengthened by this gift, send us to proclaim your resurrection, to live in the grace of your renewing love. In Jesus' we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

CLOSING HYMN: "Christ Is Alive" (*Voices United #158*)

SENDING FORTH AND BENEDICTION

One: Risen with Christ

All: we know the reassurance of God's presence.

One: Risen with Christ

All: we accept the challenge to walk in God's way.

One: Risen with Christ

All: we are proof that God's life will never die.

One: So, go forth in joy! Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!