

EASTER

VIGIL AND SUNRISE SERVICE

APRIL 4, 2021

6:30 AM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:28-42

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

35 (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)

36 These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken."

37 And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jewish authorities, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

41 Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Grace to you and peace,
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: We are obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

One: Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He grew up before God like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground.

All: He had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

One: He was despised and rejected by humanity;
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

*All: He was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.*

One: Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

*All: He was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities.*

One: Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

*All: All we like sheep have gone astray.
We have turned everyone to his own way.
And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O crucified Jesus, Son of the Father,
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
eternal Word of God, we worship you.

O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God,
dwelling place of the Most High,
gate of heaven, burning flame of love,
we adore you.

O crucified Jesus, sanctuary of justice and love,
full of kindness, source of all faithfulness,
we exalt you.

O crucified Jesus, ruler of every human heart,
in you are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,
in you dwells all the fullness of the Godhead,
we praise your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace,

Almighty God, look with mercy upon your family
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and to be given over to the hands of sinners
and to suffer death on a cross; who now lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

MUSIC *Were You There?*African-American Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there?)

Oh ----, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified, my Lord? (were you there?)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there?)

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:1-18

20 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. **2** So 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.” **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; **12** and 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. **13** They 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.”

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus 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.” **16** Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus 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.’” **18** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her

EXSULTET:

One: Rejoice, Heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God’s throne!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

All: *Rejoice, Heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!*

One: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!

All: *Rejoice, Heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!*

One: Rejoice, O Mother church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God’s people!

All: *Rejoice, Heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!*

One: The power of this holy dawn dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride. Day truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, and we are reconciled with God!

*All: Therefore, Gracious God, in the joy of this sunrise,
receive our sacrifice of praise, your peoples' solemn offering.
May the gift of faith always dispel the darkness of night!*

One: May we always exult in Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns forever and ever.

*All: Rejoice, Heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen*

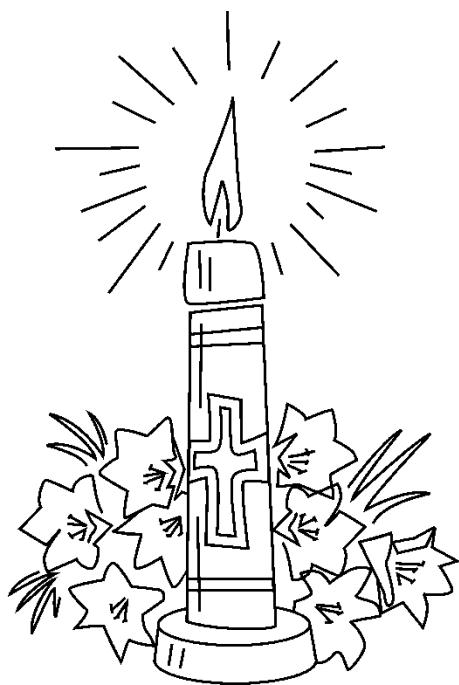
RESPONSE: Sung to the tune of *Were You There?*

*Were you there when God raised Him from the dead? (were you there?)
Were you there when God raised Him from the dead? (were you there?)
Oh ----, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the dead? (were you there?)*

THE TRANSITION TO EASTER

The Pascal Candle has been lit from the new fire. The “Alleluia” banner, which the children have retrieved from the place where it has been hidden since the beginning of Lent, is hung.

HYMN: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord



**WELCOME
THE SERVICE OF READINGS**

LET US PRAY TOGETHER: UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which you redeemed your people, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is your living Word and the fulfillment of all promises of Scripture. In his name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Friends in Christ, let us listen attentively to the Word of God, recalling God's saving deeds throughout history and how, in the fullness of time, God's Word became flesh and dwelt among us; Jesus Christ, our Redeemer!

FIRST READING: *Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea*
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 (Common English Bible)

As Pharaoh drew closer, the Israelites looked back and saw the Egyptians marching toward them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Weren’t there enough graves in Egypt that you took us away to die in the desert? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt like this? Didn’t we tell you the same thing in Egypt? ‘Leave us alone! Let us work for the Egyptians!’ It would have been better for us to work for the Egyptians than to die in the desert.”

But Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid. Stand your ground, and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never ever see again. The Lord will fight for you.

You just keep still.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to get moving. As for you, lift your shepherd’s rod, stretch out your hand over the sea, and split it in two so that the Israelites can go into the sea on dry ground. But me, I’ll make the Egyptians stubborn so that they will go in after them, and I’ll gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, all his army, his chariots, and his cavalry. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I win glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his cavalry.”

God’s messenger, who had been in front of Israel’s camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. It stood between Egypt’s camp and Israel’s camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn’t come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the amazing power of the Lord against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines

and dancing. Miriam sang the refrain back to them: Sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God***

MUSIC *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land* GO DOWN MOSES

SECOND READING: *Salvation Offered Freely to All*.....

Isaiah 55:1-13 (Common English Bible)

All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!

Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat!

Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk!

Why spend money for what isn't food,
and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?

Listen carefully to me and eat what is good;
enjoy the richest of feasts.

Listen and come to me;
listen, and you will live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful loyalty to David.

Look, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a prince and commander of peoples.

Look, you will call a nation you don't know,
a nation you don't know will run to you
because of the Lord your God,
the holy one of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the Lord when he can still be found;
call him while he is yet near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways
and the sinful their schemes.

Let them return to the Lord so that he may have mercy on them,

to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness.
My plans aren't your plans,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways,
 and my plans than your plans.
Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
 and don't return there without watering the earth,
 making it conceive and yield plants
 and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,
so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
 Instead, it does what I want,
 and accomplishes what I intend.
Yes, you will go out with celebration,
 and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
 all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
 in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This will attest to the Lord's stature,
 an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC *The Canticle of the Turning* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

THIRD READING: *Dying and Rising with Christ*
Romans 6:3-11

Paul insists that salvation is entirely a gracious and undeserved gift of God. As he makes this point in Romans, he rejects the idea that grace encourages sin. Christ death is a death to sin and the new life he brings is life to God. Romans chapter 6, verses 3-11:

Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his. This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him. We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. He died to sin once and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:1-12

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A Creed from Scripture...1st Corinthians and other sources

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

MORNING PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentences
Offertory

*DOXOLOGYLASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

All: They will come from east and west and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

One: According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them,

All: And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

One: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Lord be with you *And also with you.*
Lift up your hearts! *We lift them up to the Lord!*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

It is indeed right that with all the angels of heaven and all
the creatures on earth we sing praises
to you, all Holy and Glorious God. For Christ is risen:
He is risen indeed.

This is like the day that you gave light to the universe. This
is like the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea
and led them to freedom with a pillar of fire. Now our night
is as
bright as day, and that light is Christ:
Thanks be to you, O God.

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is
the day that you canceled the debt
of Adam and Eve and married heaven to earth. The Lamb
who was slain now reigns, for
Christ is risen: *He is risen indeed.*

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: Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes
 in the name of the Lord; ho - san - na in the
 high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We rejoice that Jesus came to our darkened world. He washed away sin and rescued us from evil.

He brings us holiness, justice, and peace. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you,

shared it with his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Holy Spirit of the risen Christ, transform us and this feast. Fill this body with your presence.

Renew us with the cup of your loving kindness. Illumine our lives, and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race, for our light is Christ:
Thanks be to you, O God.

All holy and victorious God, our might, our mercy, our life, we bless your salvation, we sing of your grace, for Christ is risen:

He is risen indeed.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

***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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD; THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

The gifts of God for the people of God. *Alleluia.*

The Body of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the Bread of Heaven.

The Blood of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the Cup of Salvation.

Come to the table, dearly beloved, for all is ready.

Alleluia, Amen.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN # 232.....*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*.....EASTER HYMN

*UNISON CONCLUDING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let us pray...

Blessed are you, God our Father; you fill our hearts with “Alleluia!” You have brought life and immortality to light through the resurrection of your son, Jesus, and you have called us to be his followers and your children. We live in a world that longs for your peace, that needs the hope that he brings, that needs his healing touch. Send us out rejoicing, renewed by the power of his resurrection, filled with his Spirit, and determined that all we meet shall know that Jesus the Lord is risen today. Alleluia. So be it.

*MUSIC.....*I Danced in the Morning*.....SIMPLE GIFTS

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen, Indeed!

Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONSE

587

Amen

African-American

Music: Harmonization © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship Leaders: The Reverend Doctor Barry Ensign-George
Rev. Tara N. Reck, Pastor, Rev. John Kupar, Associate Pastor, Haley Ingram, Seminary Intern,
Rev. Dr. Barry Ensign-George, Darla Talbert, Children's Music Director

Anchorage Presbyterian Church

*is a welcoming community of disciples of Jesus Christ
who gather for worship and are sent to serve,
so that, growing by the Holy Spirit in faith,
we may do God's work and be God's people in and for the world.*

All are welcome to 11:00 am
Easter Worship Service

