

Celebration of Worship

April 12, 2009, 2009 – 11:00 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY

We enter to worship;

we depart to serve

Easter doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

Fredrick Buechner

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Organist, Amanda Teachnor

Announcements

(Please sign and pass the friendship pads at this time.)

♦ Opening Hymn 291 "Thine is the Glory" (1st verse & chorus)

**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 graveclothes where Thy body lay.**

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won. Amen.**

Welcome and Silent Meditation

Invocation

Mr. Jon Neff

♦ Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Thanks be to God who gives us this victory!

Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God,
forever and ever.

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!

♦ Hymn "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" (See insert)

♦ Prayer of the Day

God of life, hear our prayers of praise

and our exultation in the victory of Christ over death

Help us this resurrection morning

to live in the joy that we shall not die,

but live to proclaim your wonderful works forever.

Risen Christ, send us also from east to west

and from north to south,

in whatever direction pleases you,

with voices filled with the joy of faith

and the message of eternal salvation from your cross and

empty tomb, that others may share our Easter surprise

and not be afraid of death. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Gifts of Music

"This Special Day"

Traditional

Sunshine Choir

"Sing a Joyous Alleluia" Linda S. Speracek

Children's Choir

"Mary, Did You Know?" Lowry & Green
(Adult Choir; Soloist: Hunter Carlisle)

Children's Moment

Ms. Marti

(Children's Church is available for 4 yrs. through kindergarten.)

Pastoral Prayer and the 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 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.**

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Morning Offering

Offertory

♦ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

♦ Prayer of Dedication

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading (page 917)

Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Reading (page 829)

Mark 16:1-8

Sermon

"Grief, Relief, and Terror"

♦ Hymn 289 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

♦ Benediction

♦ Congregational Response Hymn 171

"Joy to the World" (1st verse)

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive
her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

Postlude

♦ *(Indicates appropriate place for congregation to stand)*

