

## Order of Worship for April 17, 2022

*The followers of Jesus on that first Easter morning came to the tomb fully expecting nothing more than the opportunity to prepare Jesus' body for the sleep of death. His burial on Good Friday had been done in haste; now they would take more time for a proper preparation of their beloved Master's body. On this Easter morning we signal this same mood with the bare front of the church and the somber confession.*

### Prelude:

#### **John 19:38-42**

P: After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

#### **Mark 16:1-3**

P: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

### Confession

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we walk in spirit with those who went to the tomb early Easter morning.

**C: And we walk with all the mourners everywhere who have suffered and who are still suffering. Color the world this morning dark and gray and sad.**

P: For if Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile and we are still in our sins.

**C: Our words of confession would bounce back to accuse us. Our sins of thought and word and deed would stamp us guilty. We would continue to exist in the death called sin.**

P: The sealed tomb seals our fate. Then even God Himself cannot rescue us from what we are.

**C: The world would go on toward death, sealed with the curse of the fall, with pain and suffering and cruelty and meaningless life and death for all.**

P: If Christ has not been raised, then those who die have perished forever.

**C: The grave would have won, for if one like Christ cannot conquer, how can we?**

P: So we come to the tomb this morning, with only one thing in mind:

**C: to better prepare His body for the sleep of death, and preparing ourselves for the same sorry sleep. For if Christ has not been raised, we are the most pitiful of people.**

**ALL: But who will roll away the stone—Pilate's stone of death, the stone of sin that blocks the way to God?**

#### **Easter Gospel: Luke: 24:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them

in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.   **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Processional Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" – Hymn #457**

*(We rise and face the processional cross. During the hymn the cross, the Christ candle, and the Easter flowers will be brought forward; the Easter paraments will be displayed and the veil removed from the altar cross.)*

P: People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead?

**C: Because we have nowhere else to go. He had told us that He is the way, the truth, and the life.**

P: People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead?

**C: Because we live in a world that still suffers from wars and hunger, cruelty and bloodshed. Because families are torn apart by greed or death or selfishness. Because individual lives deny or ignore or mock God.**

P: People of God, approach the tomb! Await the dawn of a new age! Seek the miracle of new life! People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead?

**C: Because we remember His words of resurrection and life and hope and victory.**

P: People of God, do not live in death. Do not let sin be your master. Jesus Christ has risen to forgive you. He has risen to save you. He has risen to give you life.

People of God, He is not here! He is risen!

**C: Yes, the tomb is empty! He is risen!**

P: He is risen!

**C: And He is among us!**

P: Alleluia!

**C: Alleluia!**

P: He is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

**Hymn of Praise: "This Is the Feast" (p. 155)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O God, for our redemption You have given Your only Son, Jesus to the death on the cross and by His glorious resurrection You have delivered us from the power of death. Grant that our sin may be drowned each day by our baptisms through daily repentance and that a new person may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever, through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 65:17-25

R: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of My people be, and My chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.   **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Lesson** – 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

R: If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all his enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Hymn** – *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* – **Hymn #461** (vs. 1-6)

**Sermon:** *"Remember How He Told You"* - **Luke 24:1-12**

Holidays are full of memories. The sights and sounds and smells bring us back to earlier celebrations. The sound of a Christmas carol, the sight of snow gently falling, can bring you back to a white Christmas of your childhood. The smells of turkey roasting and pies baking can bring you back to a joyous family Thanksgiving. And the smells of Easter lilies, the sight of colored eggs, and the sounds of Alleluia can bring you back to Easter.

Smells are powerful. While smells go to the emotional part, words go to the thinking part of our brain. Along with other memories evoked by our senses are the memories of the words spoken to us, the words we heard. Maybe it was at one of those holiday family gatherings that you first learned you'd be a grandparent, or an in-law. Maybe it was at one of those that you received some sage advice from an older relative that set your course for life.

But not all of those memories are joyful. Remembering family gatherings can remind you of those who aren't there anymore, when death or dissent keeps families from reuniting. Remembering harsh words that came up when life choices or politics came up can cause rifts that may not be healed. Remembering is not always happy and helpful.

That first Easter, as the women go to the tomb, their minds would have been full of sorrow. They'd remember what they'd seen; Jesus, beaten and bloodied. Jesus, dying on the cross. Jesus, dead, carried into the tomb. They'd remember the hopelessness they felt, and were still feeling. All that they'd hoped for, gone. There had been so much hope, so much promise. But now, it had all come to what? Nothing!

The famous teacher, their friend? Dead. His disciples? In hiding. Other followers? Scattered. One—Judas Iscariot—has even killed himself. That great, joyful, unexpected news, that message they'd been told of what would happen, had been forgotten in their grief.

And so they head to the tomb, to see their friend again. They'd offer one last act of love, preparing his body for burial properly. They could smell the spices they carried, hear the sound of each other's weeping. Those sounds and smells of death that were so familiar to them were surrounding them once again.

But when they get to the tomb, something changes. Instead of seeing what they expected, they see something different. They see angels, and a stone rolled away. They see the tomb, empty. They see two angels, blinding and dazzling. And then they hear the message: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

The message of the angels sends them back to what Jesus had told them. Luke's Gospel records three times where Jesus predicts his death and resurrection during his ministry. Jesus had told them what was going to happen, that he was going to be betrayed, die, and rise three days later. In the midst of their grief and sorrow, though, they forgot. They didn't understand, though they hadn't understood at the time, either. The reality of death overshadowed any memory of what Jesus had told them.

Once they hear the message of the angels, once they remember the words of Jesus, their grief turns into joy, and they run off to share that good news. Jesus has risen, just as he said! They hadn't seen him yet, they didn't know all that it meant, but they knew it was good news, and that it had to be shared.

Their message is greeted with disbelief, though. Although doubting Thomas gets a bad reputation for doubting Jesus' resurrection, the rest of the disciples aren't much better. Like the women, they'd heard Jesus predict his suffering, death and resurrection. Like the women, they've forgotten that message in the midst of their grief. Like the women, they doubt that death could be overcome. They think the women are speaking idle tales, are delirious, have just made the whole thing up. They don't believe the message. It will take Jesus appearing to them, reminding them in person of what he had told them, to get them to remember and believe.

Jesus' followers needed reminding because they were resigned to death as they looked for the living among the dead, with spices to mask death's stench. Then they were perplexed by the missing body and frightened by the angel's announcement of the resurrection. They were resigned to death because they had forgotten that Jesus not only predicted his betrayal and crucifixion, he predicted that his resurrection would bend even that unthinkable evil to serve life and salvation.

But like the disciples, like the women, we sometimes forget what Jesus said. We let the sin and suffering, darkness and death, overwhelm our memories. We see a world full of war and destruction, disease and suffering, and wonder if anything changed. We forgot what Jesus promised. We forget what Jesus did. We forget what it means that Jesus was raised from the dead. How could someone have risen from the dead? What does the life and death of someone two thousand years ago have to do with my life? And so we despair. We grieve, and mourn. We look out at the world and think sin and death have won. We forget what we have heard.

When we forget, we are reminded. We hear the words of God preached and read. We can reread the promises of God, and see how Christ is present through the whole story of the Bible. We see Jesus come to us in fellow believers who encourage us, care for us, and remind us of how God has been present and

active in their lives. We remember the words we have heard. We remember that death and darkness will not, do not win. We remember that sin has been defeated. We remember that our redeemer lives.

Remember what he said. Remember what you have heard. Remember the stories you heard, of God coming to earth, dying, and rising. Remember that Jesus died for you, and rose for you. "Remember what he said" reminds us that reality has, from the beginning, bent to Jesus' words. Creation and resurrection declare the truth that reality bends to Jesus' words. For us to remain rooted in reality, we too must repeatedly remember what He said.

What's it all mean? What's the message of Easter we need to remember? It means that there's more to our lives than what we think. It means that there's more to our story than what we see. It means that there's more than just death and taxes. One thing's for sure. We have a song to sing! And we sing it with our lips and with our lives. What's the song called? Our song has six words. What are they? We sang them earlier, and we'll sing them again. *I know that my Redeemer lives!*

### **Responsive Prayer**

P: Holy, Triune God, on this day of resurrection, we praise Your name for the sudden surprise of life from death, for "the stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.

**C: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."** (Psalm 118:22-24)

P: On this happy day of resurrection give us the hope of sin conquered through the cross of Christ and teach us to say:

**C: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God."** (Romans 5:1, 2)

P: On this glorious day of new life bestowed, give us the hope of salvation and teach us to say:

**C: "Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with Him."** (1 Thessalonians 5:8-10)

P: On this wondrous day of death conquered through an open, empty tomb, give us the hope of triumph over death and teach us to say:

**C: "But we would not have you ignorant, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep."** (I Thessalonians 4:13, 14)

P: On this blessed day of victory over Satan's powers, give us the hope of eternal life and teach us to say:

**C: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of the dead and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."** (1 Peter 1:3-4)

P: When trials and suffering rob us of joy and lead us toward hopelessness, give us Easter hope so we may:

**C: "Rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts."** (Romans 5:3-5)

P: When we begin to lose our zeal for You and our spirits grow weary in serving, give us Easter hope that we may know:

C: **“What is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of His great might which He accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.”**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Conqueror, the Victor, the Giver of life, for You have conquered sin and death.

C: **We give You our praise and thanksgiving, risen Lord.**

## **Sharing our Ministry**

### **Offering & Voluntary:**

*(After the offering is received, the bread and wine will be brought forward. God receives our simple gifts of bread and wine and gives back to us the true body and blood of Jesus in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion.)*

**Offering Hymn:** *“Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom”* – **Hymn #481** (Choir sings vs. 1.)

### **Service of the Sacrament**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P: Christ Jesus, we thank You that on that Easter morning the angels told the women, “Remember what He told you.” You have kept Your Word by going to the cross, dying, and rising from the dead. We thank You that we get to participate in that death and resurrection as You call us to come to Your Holy Communion. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we come to Your altar remembering what You told us and believing what You promise about receiving Your true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Hear us as we pray the prayer You taught us . . .

## **Lord’s Prayer**

### **The Words of our Lord**

### **Distribution of Holy Communion:**

Choir and Brass Anthem: *“Alleluia! O Praise the Lord Most Holy”* arr. by Paul Thomas.

*“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”* – **Hymn #466**

*“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”* – **Hymn #458**

**Hymn After Communion:** *“In Thee Is Gladness”* – **Hymn #818**

### **Prayer After Communion:**

P: Almighty God, through Your only Son You overcame death and opened for us the gate of everlasting life. Give us Your continued help, put good desires into our hearts, and bring them to full effect, through Jesus Christ our Lord who rose on Easter for us. **C: Amen.**

**Blessing (pastor) C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”* – **Hymn #461** (vs. 7-8)

**Postlude:**