

Church of the Divine Love

EASTER DAY

APRIL 17, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #179 – **Welcome, happy morning**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 10:34-43**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

Gradual Hymn – **An Easter Hallelujah** (on insert)

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #207 – **Jesus Christ is risen today**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn – **Blessed Assurance** (on insert)

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #182 – **Christ is alive!**

Dismissal

Sermon Easter Sunday April 17, 2022

Acts 10: 34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Jesus died but he's not dead. That's the paradox of Easter. It's the story we tell every year. It never changes. It always ends the same way. The stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty. I can't explain how it happened, but I want to be told again and again that it did happen. I think we all do. I think that's why we come here on this day.

Like children with a favorite bedtime story, we want to hear it one more time. It's not because we think the story has changed or might end differently. It's because our story, our individual life story, has changed and is changing and we're just not sure how it will end. Life is delicate. Relationships are fragile. We work to make changes and then go back to doing the same old thing. One day all is well, the next it's all different. The doctor gives a diagnosis. A spouse wants a divorce. We watch a parent struggle with dementia. We worry about our kids. A loved one dies. A job is lost. Sometimes it feels as if we are hanging on by a thread and getting more tired by the minute.

These and a thousand others like them are the stories we carry with us. They are stories of change, fear, loss, and death. They are the stories that took the women to the tomb in today's gospel. They are the stories we bring with us today and they are the reason we want and need to hear the Easter story one more time. So here it is. The empty tomb lies within each of our stories. Regardless of what happens

next in your story the ending has been written. The stone has been rolled away. Not so Jesus could get out but so we can see in. There is no body. The tomb is empty. There is nothing there. God has a future for us. That is the promise of Easter. That's what we come to hear and be told today. Christ is risen from the dead.

Sometimes this all seems like an idle tale, too good to be true, too improbable to be real, and too hard to believe. Look again. The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty. Listen to the story a thousand times. It will not change. Our life has been guaranteed by God. So, what does that mean for us? It means we can quit looking for the living among the dead. It means we no longer have to look at the past and say, If only. It means we no longer have to look at the future and worry, What if? For me it means that when someone asks, do you have children? I can say, yes. We have two sons. The younger one lives in Haiti. The older one died about three years ago. It means that I can never say he is dead. He died but he is not dead. That is the truth of Easter, and it is as true for each one of you and your losses and deaths as it is for me.

I don't know what happened that first Easter Day. I don't know how whatever did happen happened. But I have come to believe that this story is less about explaining, understanding, making sense of, or even believing what happened that day, and more about experiencing what that day means for you and me today. So, I want to tell you three things I think this story means for us.

First, it means a promise. It promises a future. And "the force of the future is to prevent the present from closing in on us, from closing us up. The promise means we can never say about our life, this is it, this is all there is, or This is how it will always be. Our resurrection is not a future event, something yet to happen. It is a present and everyday reality that promises us a future and the chance that this moment will be transformed and changed. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Second, it means we have hope. It means we have hope for our lives and the lives of those we love. We have hope for something absolutely new, a new birth, a new life. We have hope that our lives matter. It means we have hope in the midst of our doubts and uncertainties, despite the riskiness of life, and when nothing makes sense, and the odds are against us. This hope means that we live with a great perhaps and openness to the future. We hope against hope for the unexpected possibility of the impossible. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Third, it means a call. The resurrection is a calling on our lives. And this call awaits our response. We are being called to believe in life because life is precious beyond belief. We are being called to appreciate the opportunities of every moment given us and to neither waste nor take for granted a single one. We are being called to live more fully alive and take the risk that there is always more life awaiting us even when it is unimaginable, unforeseeable, and seemingly impossible. The resurrection is wooing and calling us into life, more life, a new life. It is God's yes to us, and it asks us to answer, to act, to respond and take the beautiful risk of saying, yes. Yes, to life. Yes, to more life. Yes, to a new life. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

What is the promise giving you today? In what ways is it opening your life? What is your hope today, that deep hope against hope? What are you hoping for that seems too good to be true and against all odds? What is life calling for and asking from you today? What do you need to do or change in order to say yes? The Easter message was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. That's what I believe. That's what the Church proclaims. Everything about today says you can count on that

message. The Easter message becomes an idle tale only when it is held in opposition to our life and world. Resurrection life and truth do not exist in spite of or in opposition to our life's circumstances but because of and in the midst of those circumstances. That means The Easter message of life is found in the midst of death, not apart from it; The Easter message of hope arises from the center of our sorrows and losses, not apart from them; The Easter message of new possibilities is at the heart of business as usual, not apart from it; Death is real but it is not the end; Jesus died but he is not dead; We may not see or touch Jesus but he is alive and with us.

In our message this morning you have seen that having all the right knowledge alone is not good enough. You need to have faith in order to grasp every hope that God has given to us. You have also seen that faith comes from considering the testimonies that Christ has left for you. This means taking time to meditate on His written Word. And you have seen that faith also comes by listening to His voice when He speaks to you. There is one more lesson: When your faith is strengthened, please don't keep it to yourself but share it with others. This is what Mary Magdalene did according to today's gospel she came and told the disciples what she had seen and heard, in order that they too might stop weeping but share her joy of believing the incredible hope!

I want to live this story. I want to do the truth of this story every day. I want to be the truth of this story. And I want you too as well. This is our day for a new life, for more life. And there is nothing holding us back. The tomb is empty, and he is not here but has risen. So, let's leave this place like a bunch of crazy people possessed by life. Let's seize the day. **Amen.**

THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION/EASTER DAY

	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
2 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom.
Amen

The flowers decorating the church are given
to the glory of God, and in loving memory of:

Alfred Donahue	Mary & Andrew Harbolic
Ed Carter & Ed Jr.	Blanch & Calvert Johnson
Ken Golden & Family	John Johnson
The Gilbert Family	Donald Croft
Tom Cole	Roger Croft
Alliene & Harold Pullen	Shirley Rose
Bobby Hosey	Bea Amundsen
Erica Conklin	Donald & Mavis Corrodus
Michael Stinson	Robert Kingsley
Romene & Nicholas Cevigne	Rose & Rocco Annichiarico
Hazel Allen Kelly	Agnes & Steven Reynolds
Brian Curley	Stella Andrews
Anne Treasure	Phyllis Scott Hiller
Christopher Treasure	Richard & Josephine Hiller
Mary & Orlando Credendino	Gertrude Lush
Diana & Alfred Prosser	Marcella Kingsley
Joseph & Madeline Giordano	

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen

