

Church of the Divine Love
THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION/EASTER DAY
MARCH 31, 2024 10:15 A.M.
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 (sung) 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 15:1-11**

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

Gospel: **John 20:1-18**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus - S-130 in hymnal page 367

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #208, vs. 1,2,4,5 – **The strife is o'er**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #205 – **Good Christians all, rejoice and sing**

Sermon Sunday March 31st, 2024

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Over the last several years my thinking concerning Easter has become more and more simplified. I don't spend nearly as much time trying to understand, explain, or make sense of what happened. I am more comfortable with accepting the story at face value. You know the story as well as I do. Jesus died on a cross. He was laid in a tomb. It was sealed. On the third day the "very large stone" over the entrance was rolled back. Women go looking for the body. A messenger says, "He has been raised; he is not here." The tomb is empty and Christ is risen.

I have no explanations for any of that. But I have experiences of that. I've seen it happen in my life and in your lives. I read it everywhere in the scriptures. Today's resurrection story isn't new. It's the pinnacle of what God has been doing all along. And if it seemed like our Old Testament readings were never going to end, that was the point. They were declaring that God has always been in the life-giving business.

Have you ever been freed from patterns and behaviors that impoverished and diminished your life? Isn't that a new life? Isn't that a retelling of the Israelites escaping the bondage of Egypt? Have you ever had new insights into your life, a new way of seeing the world, another person, or yourself? Every blind man whose eyes were opened by Jesus experienced new life, a resurrection. Have you ever felt stuck, and

without energy or direction in life? Remember the lame man and Jesus saying, "Stand up, take your mat and walk?" That's resurrection. What about Jesus cleansing the temple? Haven't there been times when you cleaned out and made a new start? Maybe that was your resurrection. Have you ever felt the presence of a loved one who has died? You knew she or he was there. Maybe you spoke to him or heard her voice. More resurrection. What about the raising of Lazarus? "Unbind him and let him go," Jesus said. When has your life been unbound? When have you experienced a new freedom that released and enlarged your life?

Think about a time when it felt as if new life had been breathed into you. You felt a new sense of energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and everything was fresh and beautiful. That's the resurrecting breath of God blowing through your valley of dry bones. Recall a friend who said or did exactly what you needed when you were in a desolate place and you hadn't asked for a thing. He or she nourished your life in the same way Jesus fed the multitude in the wilderness. Have you ever had a relationship that you were sure could not be salvaged? There was nothing left. The hurt was too deep and the distance too wide. And then one day a letter is sent, a phone call is made, or a conversation is started. Something changes and the stone is rolled back.

These kinds of things are happening all time in thousands of ways. I've come to believe that there are really only two questions to be asked about the Easter story. One question we bring to this day. The other is a question with which we leave this day. The two questions stand as bookends to the story. The first question is this. Is it still true? Is this story true in your life and my life today? That's the question we bring to this day. It's not because we think the story might have changed since last year. It's because our story has changed. Our life is different today from what it was last Easter, and we want to be reminded that Easter is still real. That's why we show up here every year to hear the same old story.

So let me be clear about this. In whatever ways your life has changed and is different from last Easter, whether you consider it for better, for worse, or a mixture of both, the story is still true. Regardless of who you are, what you've done, or left undone, Easter is still happening. You can count on it. The story was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. It may take months or even years for resurrection to free us from the tomb and pull us out of the darkness but it will. That is the promise of today. God never leaves anyone in the darkness of the tomb. The large stones of our lives are being rolled back. Our tombs are being emptied. And the messenger is still proclaiming the good news, "He has been raised; he is not here." That's why this nave is so bright and beautiful, filled with light, candles, flowers, and alleluias. Those are not just decorations and songs; they are God's truth about your life and my life. They are the signs of Easter truth and resurrection reality.

Easter is not just something from the past to be looked at and celebrated. It is the lens through which we are to see everything. It's a life to be lived. Getting Jesus out of the tomb is not the ultimate goal of Easter. Easter is about our new life. That means that today is not the end of the story. It's the beginning. The most important part of Easter is not what happens today. What matters most about Easter is what

we do tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that. "He is going ahead of you," said the young man dressed in a white robe to the women. He is going ahead of us rolling back stones, emptying tombs, preparing new places, and calling forth life. Every cross is flowering with new life, every tomb is becoming a womb of new birth, and every darkness is being overcome by new light.

Easter happens in the Galilee of our lives: the hometown, the familiar places, the usual relationships, the ordinary circumstances. Easter happens in the everydayness of life. And that brings me to my second question, the question with which I want you to leave here today. What will you do with your new and precious life? What difference will today make tomorrow? "He has been raised; he is not here." "He is going ahead of you to Galilee."

God has so loved the world that he has gone to the thing that scares us and rips us apart the most. He has gone to the worst enemy we have, death, and said, "You, death, will not have the last word." This is what's happened in Mary's life. She's an ordinary, overlooked woman with a sinful past with no rights in that society whatsoever. She comes to preach to the disciples that she's seen the Lord; they don't believe her. She has nothing in that culture except the fear from being identified with Jesus, but she has everything. You see, her sinful past has not had the last word because Jesus called her name. Her searching, her unanswered questions, her weeping in the dark will not have the last word because Jesus has called her name. The disciples' unbelief, their overlooking and condescending of her will not have the last word because Jesus will call their name too. Their fear, hiding in the dark, and their disruption, their unbelief, and their confusion will not have the last word. Caiaphas will not win; Pontius Pilate will not win.

Tornadoes will not win. Tsunamis will not win. Jesus calls our name. He rises from the grave. He overcomes death. It's a fact, and because of that, we go home today, nothing's changed externally. We have the same life we go to that we had when we left this morning. What changes is you and me. When Jesus calls our name, we become lionhearted. In our tears we become feisty with faith. We go announce to others what we've seen, and when we are derided, we stand. This is grace. This is the resurrection.

Happy resurrection day and be blessed! **Amen.**

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION:EASTER DAY

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY

8:30 PM

AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP
8:30 PM AA MEETING

SAURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

1 EASTER 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Dana Kenn
Coffee	Giordanos	Nolans

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

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

Ivan Navaro	Lormande Quatorze
Agnes & Stanton Reynolds	Clairmanta Point DuJour
Rose & Rocco Annichiarico	Romene Nicolas
Bobby Hosey	Valmont Quatorze
Erica Conklin	Sevigne Michaud

Michael Stinson	Ken Golden
Barbara Stinson	Golden Family
Ailene & Harold Pullen	Gilbert Family
Anne Treasure	Alfred Donahue
Chris Treasure	Andrew & Mary Harbolic
Kathleen & Anthony Treasure	Blanch & Calvert Johnson
Barbara Treasure	John Johnson
Phyllis Hiller	Gary Johnson
Mary & Orlando Credendino	Donald Croft
Diana & Alfred Prosser	Roger & Nancy Croft
Armondo & Daniel Febres	Shirley & Richard Rose
Frank Casillas III	Arlene & Bill Goodenough
Adele Gormley	Stella Andrews
Mary, Joseph & Brian Curley	Gert & Dick Lush

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

