

Church of the Divine Love
THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION/EASTER DAY
APRIL 9, 2023 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**

Gradual Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: **Colossians 3:1-4**

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

Gospel: **Matthew 28:1-10**

Sermon – The Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

Confession of Sin page 360

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

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

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

Sermon Sunday April 9,2023

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Colossians 3: 1-4; Matthew 28:1-10.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

It's not enough that the tomb is empty. It's not enough to proclaim, "Christ is risen!" It's not enough to believe in the resurrection. At some point we have to move from the event of the resurrection to experiencing the resurrection. Experiencing resurrected life begins with recognizing the risen Christ among us. That is the gift of Easter and it is also the difficulty and challenge described in today's gospel.

Cleopas and his companion are telling the other disciples how Jesus appeared to them on the road to Emmaus when Jesus, again, shows up out of nowhere, interrupting their conversation. "Peace be with you," he says. They see him, they hear his voice, but they don't recognize him. They "thought that they were seeing a ghost." They know Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. They know dead men don't come back to life. This can only be a ghost, a spirit without a body. The tomb is open but their minds are closed. They are unable to recognize the holiness that stands among them. They are continuing to live, think, and understand in the usual human categories. They have separated spirit and matter, divinity and humanity, heaven and earth. Whenever we make that separation we close our minds, we deny ourselves the resurrected life for which Christ died, and we lose our sense of and ability to recognize holiness in the world, in one another, and in ourselves.

With Jesus' resurrection, however, God shatters human categories of who God is, where God's life and energy are to be found, and how God works in this world. Resurrected life can never be comprehended, contained, or controlled by human thought or understanding. Jesus' resurrection compels us to step outside our usual human understandings of reality and enter into the divine reality. That new reality begins with touching and seeing, flesh and bones, hands and feet, and broiled fish. Jesus said to his disciples, "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." Then "he showed them his hands and his feet." After this he ate a piece of broiled fish in their presence. Flesh and bones, hands and feet, and broiled fish are the things of creation, the natural order. Mary, a woman created by God, gave Jesus his flesh and bones and his hands and feet. She also gave him the stomach that would eat the fish God created. The very same flesh and bones, the very same hands and feet, appeared to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus and then "vanished from their sight" (Luke 24:31), and now show up unannounced and unexpected in the midst of their conversation with others. In last week's gospel Jesus' hands and feet, his flesh and bones, passed through walls and locked doors.

The resurrected life of Christ, it seems, is revealed in and through the created order. It is not, however, bound by the created order. Rather, the resurrected body and life of Christ unite the visible and invisible, matter and spirit, humanity and divinity. On the one hand Jesus has a real body. On the other hand, it is not subject to the natural laws of time and space. It's not one or the other. It's both. It is a new and different reality. The degree to which we have allowed ourselves to be bound by the created order is the degree to which we are unable to see resurrected life and holiness in this world. We bind ourselves through our fears, our sorrows and losses, our runaway thoughts and distractions, our attachments and addictions to things, people, and even beliefs. Sometimes it's our unwillingness to allow or trust God to grow and change us. In binding ourselves to the created order we lose recognition of and the ability to live in the sacred. That's the very opposite of resurrected life.

The resurrected life of Christ reveals that all creation and every one of us are filled with God, holiness, divinity. Nothing can bind or supersede the grace that is given us through resurrection: unconditional love, unconditional forgiveness, unconditional life. That is, I think, one of the most difficult things for us to see, believe, and live into. It is, however, the divine reality into which we are invited, not at some future time and place but here and now. Christ our God longs and desires to open our minds to understand the scriptures, to understand all that has been written, spoken, and revealed about him in whatever form that happens and has happened. That's what Jesus did for the disciples and it's what he does for us. This is not an academic or intellectual understanding. That the disciples are witnesses does not mean they now have all the answers. It means they now have the life Jesus wants to give them. They are witnesses based not on what they know, but on who they are, how they live, and their relationship with the risen Christ.

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. 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. Those are truths of this day. They do not change the circumstances of our life but they change us in the midst of those circumstances. They do not eliminate our difficulties and problems; they see us through those difficulties and problems. They do not turn back time they take us to the first day of the week, at early dawn.

The first day of the week is not just a day on the calendar. It's Luke's way of telling us this is a new beginning, a week of re-creation. That it is early dawn means the sun/son has risen. Am I saying sun, s-u-n, as in light and warmth or am saying son, s-o-n, as in Jesus, the light and life of the world? Yes! Together the sunrise and the sunrise reveal a new life, a new light, a new creation, a new day. It's the first day. There is something about first days. The first day holds all things anew, creates every possibility, and withholds nothing. Think about the first day of love, your first love, your first kiss. The world was big and beautiful. Life was more real and the possibilities were endless. That first day held more than you could imagine. Recall the first day you saw your child or grandchild and how big, unlimited, and beautiful were your dreams for that child. On that first day you held the miracle of new life in your hands and your heart overflowed with love and thanksgiving.

Do you remember that first day you decided to straighten out your life, to do it differently, or to mend a relationship? You may have had no idea what you would do or how you would do it but something about that first day said there was more life ahead of you than behind you. Then there is the first day of heartbreak, loss, or the death of loved one. You didn't know how you would survive or if you would. That first day looked like the last day. But hidden in that first day was a new life, a new beginning. By God's grace that first day unfolded into something you couldn't see then, a life that has brought you to this very moment. Those are not idle tales. They are first day stories of life, hope, and possibilities. They are first day stories of God's faithfulness to us. The Easter story is a first day story not just for some but for all. Regardless of who you are, what you have done or left undone, or what has happened in your life this is your story. The son/sun rises on and for all. No one gets left out.

"He is not here, but has risen." The resurrection of Christ makes every day the first day. So, what does your first day look like? What does Easter mean in your life? I don't know what it is for you. I can't tell you. This is your resurrection. So let me ask you this. What is your biggest, most beautiful dream for your own becoming, for your life? If you could write another story of your life, what would it be? If you could live without regret, without looking to the past and lamenting, if only, what would you be free from? What chains would be broken? What new life would await you? If you could live without fear, without looking to the future and crying, What if? What if that happens? What if that doesn't happen? what would you have the courage to do? Who might you become? How would your life be different?

Those are not idle tales. They are first day stories of your resurrection and they are possible all because "He is not here, but has risen." The resurrection of Christ means God has guaranteed our life. "He is not here, but has risen. "In each of those moments the one who is fully alive and risen, the Christ, is calling us to see and recognize him, to join him, and to discover our new life. This is the authentic self we long to become, the self that we already are, and the self we are becoming. This is resurrected life.

Let's not lose this moment. Let's not put this text behind us. It is much too easy to come here each Sunday, listen to the gospel, hear, for better or worse, whatever I have to say, and then return to life as usual. Don't let that happen. Your life is too important to let that happen. Carry this text with you over the next week. Let it open your eyes, your heart, and your mind to the life Christ is offering you. Let it be the voice of Christ opening your mind to understand. Sit with it. Pray with it. Wrestle with it. Trust it. As

soon as you catch a glimpse of the risen Christ and your own resurrection share it with other people. "You are witnesses of these things," he says to us. Tell it. Live it. Become it. The resurrected life is yours. You are witnesses. You are witnesses. **Amen!**

HOLY SATURDAY

7:00 PM THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER (also on zoom)

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

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

2 EASTER

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Jess Berbeck	Giordanos

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:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Mary & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Art
Margaret	Kaylee	Judy
Phil Ryder	Amy	

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

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

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

Ken Golden	Mary & Andrew Harbolic
Golden Family	Blanch & Calvert Johnson
Gilbert Family	John Johnson
Ed Carter	Donald Croft
Eddie Carter	Roger & Nancy Croft
Alliene & Harold Pullen	Shirley & Richard Rose
Bobby Hosey	Quentin Hanrashan
Erica Conklin	Ivan Navarro
Michael Stinson	Robert Kingsley
Brian Curley	Rose & Rocco Annichiarico
Agnes & Stanton Reynolds	Mary & Joseph Curley
Anne Treasure	Valmont Quatorze
Christopher Treasure	Gert & Richard Lush
Anthony & Kathleen Treasure	Edmund Bushey
Jenny Treasure	Marjorie Bushey
Mary & Orlando Credendino	Edwin E. Noel
Diana & Alfred Prosser	Harriet Capers
Phyllis Hiller	Lenane Quatorze
Stella Andrews	Clairmantha PointDuJour

