



*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

Easter Sunday  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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**Bold print** indicates a congregational response.

## **PREPARATION FOR THE WORD**

### **EASTER ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*Christ is Risen!*

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

### **PRELUDE:** #155 VU – **“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

*~ words by Lyra Davidica*

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*~Michael McKay*

*While we are yet unable to sing in community the great hymns of our faith, these timeless melodies can still be played for our edification while we sing along in our hearts. And so it is in today's Prelude, offering that archetypal Easter hymn "Jesus Christ is Risen Today".*

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Each petition ends with *"...and so we rejoice."*

The people respond: **“Christ is risen! Alleluia!”**

### **WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

*Sheila Fortier (Thursday & on-line); Sylvia Banfield & Betty Clark (Sunday)*

#### Hebrew Scripture

**Isaiah 25: 6-9**

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.*

*And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.*

*Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.*

*It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

#### Epistle

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

*Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.*

*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.*

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

**Thanks be to God**

#### INTERLUDE: **"In the Garden"**

*~ words by C. Austin Miles/arr. by Michael A. McKay*

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*~Michael McKay*

*It is said that this well-loved song, written by American Songwriter C. Austin Miles, was inspired by John 20:14 where Mary Magdalene, alone in the garden where Jesus was buried, meets her risen Lord. We*

may find in that song, an expression of our own encounter with the risen Christ, especially today in the sacrament of communion.

## The Gospel

John 20: 1-18

~Rev. Don Johnson

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.*

GOSPEL RESPONSE:      *The Gospel of Christ.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON and INTERCESSIONS:      *"That First Easter Morning"*

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

COMMUNION INTERLUDE:      **"I Come with Joy"**      ~ words by Brian Wren/arr. Michael A. McKay  
(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)      ~Michael McKay

*As we prepare our hearts for communion, let us recall "the life of Jesus... in love laid down for me" and pray that "the spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near" join us into one and "be alive among us here". Amen.*

## INVITATION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Blessing and honour, glory and power, are rightly yours, all gracious God.*

*By your creative word you brought the world to birth;*

*in your generous love you made the human family,*

*that we might see your glory and live for ever in your presence.*

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,  
are rightly yours, all gracious God.**

*When we wandered from you in our sin*

*you sought us with your steadfast love and did not give us up.*

*In the fullness of time you sent your Son to be our Saviour and Deliverer.*

*Made of flesh and blood, he lived our life and died our death upon the cross.*

*Death could not hold him and now he reigns at your right hand.*

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,  
are rightly yours, all gracious God.**

*Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven  
we bless and glorify your glorious name, saying:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*Blessed indeed is the Lord Jesus Christ who, at supper with his friends,  
took bread and gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to them and said:*

*"Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me."*

*When supper was ended, he took the cup and gave you thanks,  
gave it to them, and said:*

*"Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured  
out for you and for everyone, for the forgiveness of sins.*

*Do this in remembrance of me."*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*Therefore, Father, we celebrate this Passover of gladness:*

*for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.  
Accept, through him, our high priest, this, our sacrifice of praise.  
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Gather us, who share this feast, into the kingdom of your glory  
that with all your people in every time and place  
we may praise and worship you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**by whom and with whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
heavenly Father, now and always. Amen.***

*Gathering our prayers and praises together, we say:*  
**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING OF THE CUP

*According to the holy institution, example and command  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as a memorial of him, we do this:  
who on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,  
and when he had given thanks he broke it, and said:  
"This is my body which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
"This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me."  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world  
**grant us peace.***

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We meet the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.  
Draw near with faith.*

## DISTRIBUTION of the BREAD and INTERLUDE

*The body of Christ, keep you in eternal life.*

## DISTRIBUTION of the CUP and INTERLUDE

*The blood of Christ, keep you in eternal life.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God, you come into our ordinary lives  
and set a holy table among us,  
filling our plates with the bread of life  
and our cups with salvation.  
Send us out, O God, with tender-heartedness  
to touch an ordinary everyday world  
with the promise of your holiness. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*The peace of God, which passes all understanding  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you always. Amen.*

## POSTLUDE: "The Robin's Return"

*~words by Leander Fisher*

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*~Michael McKay*

*While not a piece of sacred music, this beloved parlor piece by American composer Leander Fisher, expresses the joy of renewal with the return of robins in spring. We may extend that sentiment to the joy of renewal with the resurrection of Jesus in Easter.*