

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Easter – April 16, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

You are our God; all the good things come from You alone.

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance, and surrounds us with abundance.

You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are our God; we will not be shaken. Let's worship God together!

Hymn 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound

**1. Now let the vault of heaven resound
in praise of love that doth abound,
'Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah!
sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,
repeat their song of glory here,
"Christ hath triumphed, Christ hath triumphed!"
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**2. Eternal is the gift he brings;
wherefore our heart with rapture sings,
'Christ hath triumphed, Je sus liveth!'
now doth he come and give us life;
now doth his presence still all strife
through his triumph; Jesus reigneth!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**3. Oh fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above,
that we conquer through thy triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day,
that by our life we ever say,
"Christ hath triumphed, and he liveth!"
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**4. Adoring praises now we bring,
and with the heavenly blessed sing,**

**'Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah!'
Be to the Father and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
thine the glory never ending!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn **270 The head that once was crowned with thorns**

**1. The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.**

**2. The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;**

**3. the joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.**

**4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.**

**5. They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

**6. The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him,
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**O God, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your
power to defeat all the things bringing fear and sorrow to
our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us
always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about**

how to find him. Like Thomas, we are unsure if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves. Forgive us when we struggle with doubt about your presence with us.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 115 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

- 1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**
- 2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to
light,
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.**
- 3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**
- 4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense
bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.**
- 5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;**

his name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

Responsive Reading Psalm 16 p. 466 NT & Psalms

Keep me safe, O God,
for I have come to you for refuge.

I said to the Lord, "You are my Master!

Every good thing I have comes from you."

The godly people in the land
are my true heroes!
I take pleasure in them!

Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods.

**I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood
or even speak the names of their gods.**

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.
You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance!

I will bless the Lord who guides me;
even at night my heart instructs me.

I know the Lord is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

My body rests in safety.

**For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.**

**You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 p. 203 NT & Psalms

1 Peter 1:3-9 p. 402 NT & Psalms

John 20:19-31 p. 198 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon So . . . who's a Thomas?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 452 Jesus, stand among us

**1. Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.**

**2. Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.**

**3. Thus with quickened footsteps
we pursue our way,
watching for the dawning
of eternal day.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

Our God, giver of every good and perfect gift, in Christ we see the power of sacrifice, and trust the hope of resurrection he offers. Receive our gifts given in gratitude for all we have received in him. Bless all that we give so that his healing work in the world may continue. Amen.

Hymn 652 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go

**1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.**

**2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned
oh let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,**

and offer all my works to thee.

**4. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude