

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

We come from many places, following different roads.

We come hungering for greater understanding.

We come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

We come seeking companions in the faith.

We come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

**We come to grow as disciples of Christ. Come, let us worship
God, made known in Christ Jesus.**

Hymn 434 For the beauty of the earth

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

5. For each perfect gift of thine,

**to the earth so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 677 My faith looks up to Thee

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine:
now hear me when I pray;
take all my guilt away;
oh let me from this day
be wholly thine.**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be,
a living fire.**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
oh bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God of majesty and mercy, even as we offer you our praise, we confess we often seek darkness rather than Easter's revealing light. We forget the new beginnings Christ offers us and cling to our old ways. Forgive us for failing to recognize Christ's presence with us in the midst of our sorrows. Hear us now as we confess in silence those times we have failed to live by Easter's light.

- 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 569 O Jesus, I have promised

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**
- 2. Oh let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**
- 3. Oh let me hear thee speaking**

**in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 p. 564 NT & Psalms

¹ I love the Lord because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.

**² Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!**

³ Death wrapped its ropes around me;
the terrors of the grave overtook me.
I saw only trouble and sorrow.

**⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"Please, Lord, save me!"**

¹² What can I offer the Lord
for all he has done for me?

**¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and praise the Lord's name for saving me.**

¹⁴ I will keep my promises to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

**¹⁵ The Lord cares deeply
when his loved ones die.**

¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;
yes, I am your servant, born into your household;
you have freed me from my chains.

**¹⁷ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people—

¹⁹ **in the house of the Lord
in the heart of Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 p. 203 NT & Psalms

1 Peter 1:17-23 p. 403 NT & Psalms

Luke 24:13-35 p. 155 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What do we see?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 500 Open my eyes, that I may see

**1. Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

**2. Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.**

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

**3. Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.**

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see;
open my mouth, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

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)

Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ's name, not seeking greater gain, but desiring to enrich life around us with your love. Amen.

Hymn 507 Break now the bread of life

**1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea:
beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord:
my spirit longs for you, O living Word.**

**2. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me;
your holy word is truth redeeming me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**

**3. Oh send your Spirit now, dear Lord, to me;
touch now my blinded eyes and make me see:
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

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