

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Easter – April 7, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

We gather with joy, for Easter continues.

Locked doors have been opened and fear has turned to peace.

We celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ among us.

Doubts can be erased and uncertainty turned to faith.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

We offer our prayers and praise with humble, hopeful hearts. Come, let us worship God!

Hymn 256 Now the green blade rises

**1. Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again like wheat new springing green.**

**2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
sure that he would never, never awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
love is come again like wheat new springing green.**

**3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for these three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead my living Lord is seen:
love is come again like wheat new springing green.**

**4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
love is come again like wheat new springing green.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 366 Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts

**1. Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount, thou light for all to see:
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn unfilled again to thee.**

**2. Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
thou savest those that on thee call;
to those who seek thee thou art good;
to those who find thee, all in all.**

**3. We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;
we drink of thee, the fountain head,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

**4. For thee our restless spirits yearn
where'er our changeful lot is cast,
glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

**5. O Jesus, always with us stay,
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
shed o'er the world thy holy light.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Merciful God, we confess to you that sometimes we live pessimistically, as if Christ was dead and buried forever, leaving us to go it alone.

We confess to you that sometimes we live guiltily, as if Christ's forgiveness is only attainable by those who are worthy. We live like paupers amid the riches of his grace, we busy ourselves like church slaves in this era of Easter liberty.

Forgive our sins and fill us with the breath of your Spirit. Restore to us the joy of Easter and lead us in the way everlasting.

- 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 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

- 1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**
- 2. Unresting, unchanging and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither, and perish; but naught changeth thee.**
- 4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: oh help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 133

p. 579 NT & Psalms

¹ How wonderful and pleasant it is

when brothers live together in harmony!

² **For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard
and onto the border of his robe.**

³ **Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.**

**And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
even life everlasting.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Acts 4:32–35 p. 208 New Testament & Psalms

1 John 1:1–2:2 p. 414 New Testament & Psalms

John 20:19–31 p. 198 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **What changes?**

Prayers of the People *(minister)*

Hymn 374 **Oh for a thousand tongues to sing**

- 1. Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.**
- 2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
and bids our sorrows cease:
'tis music in the sinner's ears;
'tis life and health and peace.**
- 3. He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.**
- 4. Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy.**
- 5. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.**

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, thank you for the hope we can claim in your
resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may**

spread that hope in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 451 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

**1. Dear Father, Lord of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**3. O sabbath rest by Gali lee,
O calm of hills above,
where Je sus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.**

**4. With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the ten der whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.**

**5. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.**

**6. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.**

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