

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Easter – April 14, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

We gather with joy, for Easter brings us new life.

The Risen Christ is with us wherever we go.

Love breaks all bonds and unites us in hope.

Christ has defeated death. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Come and worship with hearts full of praise.

O God, receive our grateful Hallelujahs!

Hymn 367 Jesus, the very thought of thee

1. Jesus, the very thought of thee

with sweetness fills my breast,

but sweeter far thy face to see,

and in thy presence rest.

2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,

nor can the memory find

a sweeter sound than thy blest name,

O Saviour dear and kind.

3. O hope of every contrite heart,

O joy of all the meek,

to those who fall how kind thou art,

how good to those who seek!

4. But what to those who find? Ah, this

nor tongue nor pen can show;

the love of Jesus, what it is

none but the loved ones know.

5. Jesus, our only joy be thou,

as thou our prize wilt be;

Jesus, be thou our glory now

and through eternity.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 821 Sun of my soul, my Saviour dear

1. Sun of my soul, my Saviour dear,

it is not night if you are near;

oh may no earthborn cloud arise

to hide you from your servant's eyes.

2. When the soft dews of kindly sleep
my wearied eyelids gently steep,
be my last thought: How sweet to rest
forever on my Saviour's breast.

3. Watch by the sick; enrich the poor
with blessings from your boundless store;
be every mourner's sleep tonight,
like infants' slumbers, pure and light.

4. Come near and bless us when we wake,
as through the world our way we take,
till in the ocean of your love
we lose ourselves in heaven above.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God our Redeemer, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your presence, unsure if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness for us. Forgive us when we miss the signs of your love in our midst.

- 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 265 Hail the day that sees Christ rise

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Hallelujah!
to the throne in paradise; Hallelujah!

**Christ the Lamb for sinners given, Hallelujah!
enters now the highest heaven. Hallelujah!**

**2. Christ, for you high triumph waits, Hallelujah!
lift your heads, eternal gates; Hallelujah!
you have conquered death and sin: Hallelujah!
enter, Sovereign, enter in. Hallelujah!**

**3. See the nail marked hands above, Hallelujah!
signs of God's redeeming love; Hallelujah!
hark, Christ's words our hearts assure, Hallelujah!
"I will send a Comforter!" Hallelujah!**

**4. Christ, for us still intercede; Hallelujah!
by your suffering for us plead; Hallelujah!
near yourself prepare a place, Hallelujah!
as the first fruits of God's grace. Hallelujah!**

**5. Now, though parted from our sight, Hallelujah!
in the depths of starry night, Hallelujah!
may God raise us up again, Hallelujah!
heirs of your eternal reign. Hallelujah!**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 4

p. 458 NT & Psalms

¹ Answer me when I call to you,
O God who declares me innocent.

Free me from my troubles.

Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**² How long will you people ruin my reputation?
How long will you make groundless accusations?
How long will you continue your lies?**

³ You can be sure of this:

The Lord set apart the godly for himself.

The Lord will answer when I call to him.

⁴ Don't sin by letting anger control you.

Think about it overnight and remain silent.

⁵ Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,
and trust the Lord.

**⁶ Many people say, "Who will show us better times?"
Let your face smile on us, Lord.**

⁷ You have given me greater joy
than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine.

**⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Acts 3:12-19 p. 205 New Testament & Psalms

1 John 3:1-7 p. 416 New Testament & Psalms

Luke 24:36b-48 p. 157 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Peace? Really?

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 257 The strife is o'er, the battle won

**1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Hallelujah!**

**2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Hallelujah!**

**3. The three sad days have quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Hallelujah!**

**4. Lord, from your wounds God's blessings spring:
free us, we pray, from death's dread sting
that we may live, and ever sing:
Hallelujah!**

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)

God our Maker, you have filled the world with so much abundance. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and use them to bring hope and new life in Christ's name to a world that so badly needs these gifts. Amen

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, Jesus 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!**

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