



"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."

- John 20:1 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

GATHERING SONG

WORTH

ANTHONY BROWN

(SUNG BY KELLIE TURNER)

You thought I was worth saving
So, you came and changed my life
You thought I was worth keeping
So, you cleaned me up inside
You thought I was to die for
So, you sacrificed your life

So, I could be free
So, I could be whole
So, I could tell everyone I know

You thought I was worth saving
So, you came and change my life
You thought I was worth keeping
So, you cleaned me up inside
You thought I was to die for
So, you sacrificed Your life

So, I could be free
So, I can be whole
So, I could tell everyone I know

Hallelujah
Glory to God who changed my life
I will praise you, forever
I will worship you, forever
I will give you glory, forever

Because I am free
Because I am whole
And I will tell everyone I know

GREETING

Presider reads regular font and Assembly reads bold font

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We, the Body, are risen with our Christ!

We are risen, indeed! Thanks be to God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this Eastertide – 50 days of celebrating the risen Christ. For 40 days of Lent we prayed, fasted, and expressed our desire for wholeness and reconciliation. Communities all over the world last week commemorated Jesus' last supper and his commandment to love one another. It continued to the cross where we participated in Christ's passion.

We prayed with the church throughout the world in vigil on Saturday. And we gathered early in the morning on Easter day. Through light and water, through speech and song, the bread and the cup, we have proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, and we await Christ's coming again to bring the fullness of God's love and light to all the earth.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY" (Vs. 1-2)

NCH 233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high,

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Sing ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We gather in these sacred moments seeking forgiveness for the roles we've played in maintaining systems of injustice.

Forgive us our silence and indifference.

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our Creator is mighty,
in Jesus we know the power of redemption,
God stands among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
Our Creator will uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of the risen Son,
we share in the resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ours is a hope that rises victorious. May we all know the peace of those born of the tomb. May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Service of the Word

POEM

BY RAINER MARIA RILKE

READER

I BEG YOU... TO BE PATIENT
TOWARD ALL THAT IS UNSOLVED IN YOUR HEART
AND TO TRY TO LOVE THE *QUESTIONS THEMSELVES*
LIKE LOCKED ROOMS AND LIKE BOOKS
THAT ARE WRITTEN IN A VERY FOREIGN TONGUE.
DO NOT NOW SEEK THE ANSWERS,
WHICH CANNOT BE GIVEN YOU
BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE THEM.

AND THE POINT IS, TO LIVE EVERYTHING.

LIVE THE QUESTIONS NOW.

PERHAPS YOU WILL THEN GRADUALLY,

WITHOUT NOTICING IT,

LIVE ALONG SOME DISTANT DAY INTO THE ANSWER.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Please, join me in prayer.

LIVING GOD, LONG AGO, FAITHFUL WOMEN PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION, AND THE WORLD WAS CHANGED FOREVER. TEACH US TO KEEP FAITH WITH THEM, THAT OUR WITNESS MAY BE AS BOLD, OUR LOVE AS DEEP, AND OUR FAITH AS TRUE. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 20:1-18

NRSV

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.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

BETH THOMPSON /DERRICK GUTIERREZ

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the seminary community, the good of the church, the good of our congregations and neighborhoods, and the good of our nation and world. I invite you to temporarily unmute and say aloud the names and situations on your hearts this morning.

[Presider pauses for Assembly participation]

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwelling among us in the living Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you. Surround with your love and grace all those whose names we have mentioned aloud or in our hearts. Enter into those

concerns we have named, and those that trouble us too deeply for words. By your Spirit be present as the risen Christ in our lives, our communities, our nation, and our world. Grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. **Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“BECAUSE HE LIVES” (VERSE 1)

AAHH 281

**God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.**

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living, just because He lives.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to our Creator!

Let us give thanks to our Creator!

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator.

Your Word is the impulse for all things to be,

for space, stars and stardust to appear,

for Earth to emerge from the deep,

for life to be born of Earth and

for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being,

to become a part of Earth,

to suffer, die and rise from death

to redeem humankind, renew creation,

and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us,
filling Earth—land, sea and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape
we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
ancient voices in the forest,
high voices from the sky,
deep voices from the sea
and the whole company of creation,
we proclaim your presence among us.

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
Earth and sea and sky
and all things that exist
are full of your presence
and glorify your name.**

We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying “Take and eat: for this is my body.” And after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said “Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God. Share this bread and this cup in memory of me.” Come now, Holy Spirit of God— As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and this cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ. And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup. Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage to live boldly for one another, proclaiming the truths that set us free. Blessed be this meal of hope. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us give thanks for this meal.

We thank you Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“IN CHRIST ALONE”

GETTY/TOWNEND

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -
 world, by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious -
 pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
 ness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Till on the
 day, up from the grave He rose a - gain! And as He
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 cross as Je - sus died, God's grace for us was mag - ni -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here n the love of Christ I
 fied. For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I
 me; For I am His and He is mine, saved by the pre - cious love of
 hand; 'Til He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll

stand.
 live.
 Christ.
 stand!

CCLI Song #3350395

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We, the Body, are risen with our Christ!

We are risen, indeed! Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION

Sending

“THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO IS ALL POWERFUL, AND THEIR GREATEST WEAPON IS LOVE.”

-STAN LEE

Cover Graphic: Women at the Tomb, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56870> [retrieved July 5, 2020]. Original source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chartres-051_-_e2_-_Resurrection_-_tombeau_vide.jpg.

Gathering Song: Worth by Anthony Brown

Call to Worship: Modified prayer created by previous LTS Worship Design Team for April 4, 2018 (along with) The Revised Common Lectionary, 2002. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=132>.

Confession and Assurance: The Revised Common Lectionary, 2002. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=132>.

Poem/Creative Element: Monk Kidd, Sue. *When the Heart Waits* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1990), 157

Prayer of Illumination: “Resurrection of the Lord: Year C”, “Thematic,” <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=132>, accessed July 5, 2020.

Communion Liturgy: “Planet Earth Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-planet-earth-sunday-1.pdf>.

Sending: Stan Lee

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

Lancaster Theological Worship Team

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The Worship Team seeks:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference, and challenges the normative.