

**Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Celia Weber

This is the good news—
the grave is empty;
Christ is risen.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news—
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news—
once we were no people;
now we are God's people.

Hallelujah!

Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace
we now share with each other.

Hallelujah!

! Invocation

Celia Weber

O Father God of the risen Christ,
in whose resurrection we find new life,
send your Spirit to dwell among us in this day of worship.

O risen Christ, Son of the Father,
may we hear your word of peace today.

O Spirit of the living God,
teach us once more to live in the power of Christ's resurrection,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

! Hymn 228

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Celia Weber

As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern, and follow

Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God.

—Ephesians 5:1-2, NJB

Prayer of Confession

Celia Weber

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Celia Weber

When you were dead in trespasses,
God made you alive together with him,
when he forgave us all our trespasses,
erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands.
He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.
He disarmed the rulers and authorities
and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. **Amen.**

—from Colossians 2:13-15, NRS

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation We are not our own; we belong to you. You have created us and given us life anew, O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. We extend our arms and open our hands to present our offerings to you. We make these gestures to display outwardly our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts. Receive these gifts from us, O Triune God, and through them bring life and hope to many. In the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

Blessing by Story

Bernie Hughes

 **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

 **Prayer of Dedication**

Good Shepherd, you spread a table before us.
We offer you our gifts, signs of your gracious love and tokens
of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb,
that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 76**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Dan Baker

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-53

³⁶ As they were saying these things, he himself stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ "Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as *you* can see I have." ⁴⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ He told them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He also said to them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² After worshiping him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they were continually in the temple praising God.

Sermon

"The Ascension"
Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn 232**

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Responding

We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith *(Apostle's Creed)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Praise Song *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

Chorus
We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Verse 1

*We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up*

Chorus

Verse 2

*In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength*

Chorus

Verse 3

*Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom*

Chorus

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**