

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Leader: Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?

People: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

Leader: I do not see him. I don't believe you.

People (louder): Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

Leader: Let me see his body, his hands, and his feet.

People: We are Christ's body; We are Christ's feet.

Leader: You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?

People: We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.

Leader: Let us go together, let us partner with others.

People: For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!

*Hymn 248

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Holy God, we confess our doubts.

When our childhood understandings fall away,

we feel naked.

When our long-held beliefs seem to crumble,

we feel lost.

When our convictions are questioned,

we feel ashamed.

Guide us into right paths, O God.

*Guide our feet into the way of peace;
 guide our hands to care for others;
 guide our hearts to love our neighbors.
 Call us back to You, O Christ, and renew our faith. . .
 When the ground is unsteady,
 loving God, put us back on right paths
 by doing justice, loving kindness,
 and walking humbly with You. Amen.*

Assurance of Grace

The peace of God be with you. Receive God's forgiveness and the promise of the Spirit, for Jesus is risen from the dead. Seen or unseen, he is present in our midst, and we see the presence of Christ reflected in each other's faces. Happy are those who have not seen, yet have come to believe.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (Unison)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer

Come and Fill

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!

Prayers lifted to God

*Hymn 254

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"
*That Easter day with joy was bright;
 the sun shone out with fairer light
 when, to their longing eyes restored,
 the apostles saw their risen Lord.*

*He bade them see his hands, his side,
 where yet the glorious wounds abide,
 the tokens true which made it plain
 their Lord indeed was risen again.*

*From every weapon death can wield,
 your own redeemed forever shield;
 O Lord of all, with us abide
 in this our joyful Eastertide.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Living God, help us so to hear your Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe; and believing, we may follow your way in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Amen.

First Lesson:

Isaiah 25: 6-9

(p. 652 OT)

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Second Lesson:

John 20:19-31

(p. 115 NT)

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe^u that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

The Witness of Jesus' Body

Rev. Jane Grady

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

The Worship of God Through Giving

Offertory Music

"Bread of Sorrows"

St. Andrew Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer *(Unison)* by Thom Shuman

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.



All are welcome at Christ's table. Belief in Christ, not membership, offers you this loving invitation.

INVITATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose from the dead, he appeared to some of his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of bread. O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. Come, then, to the joyful feast of our Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Responsive)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

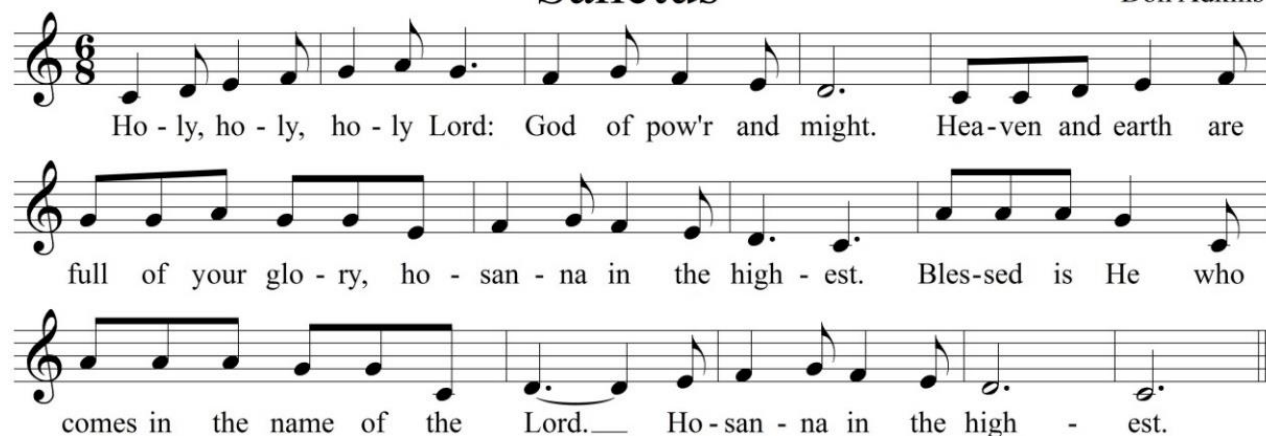
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among your creatures to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us, your love remained steadfast. When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom and made covenant to be our God. You spoke love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. Christ died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place singing....

Sanctus

Don Adkins



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart, and met with violence and death. By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of death were opened. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of the bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Following Christ's example let us join in praying his prayer.

(Lord's Prayer p. 35 in Hymnal, using "debts/debtors")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*While the elements are being served, the congregation is invited to sing:
"Eat This Bread" followed by "I Am the Bread of Life" both on pew song sheet.*

CLOSING PRAYER *(Unison)*

Redeeming God, as Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. Thank you that the same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, has richly fed us and keeps our hearts rejoicing this day and always. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn 157

"I Danced in the Morning"

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.*

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain { *Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the
Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.* }

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on.*

Refrain

...

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.*

Refrain

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.*

Refrain

*They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.*

Refrain

Benediction