

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021
Christ is Risen, Alleluia!!!



Welcome

Opening Song *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken Like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.
 Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play!
 Praise with elation, Praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation Of the new day!

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Invitation to Prayer and Candlelighting

Lighting of Paschal Candle

Candlelighter Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities.

All We give thanks for the Spirit of Life visible in Jesus, visible in us, visible in people in all walks of life. (Michael Morwood—textweek.com—adapted CCJ)

Prayer of Gathering

Presider Creator of the Dawning Sun—Awakener of Life,
 we celebrate this Easter Day saturated with your eternal energy.

Reader 1 We watch this morning for the light that the darkness has not overcome.
 We watch for the glow of life that gleams in the growing earth and glistens in sea and sky.

Reader 2 We watch for your light in the eyes of every living creature and in the ever-living flame of our own souls.

**All God of Life, if the grace of seeing were ours this day
 we would glimpse you in all that lives.
 Grant us, this Easter day, the grace of seeing.
 Grant us the grace of seeing your light and love in all of life. Amen.**

Celtic Benediction, J. Philip Newell, p. 2 and 7 *Sacred Pauses*, Macrina Wiederkehr, p. 68 (adapted CCJ)

1st reading Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

Responsive reading

Reader Risen One, Tomb-Opener,
**All you are the power we need. Roll away the stones of unloving and shove
 aside the boulders of worry. Untomb us and set us free.**

Reader Risen One, Source of Amazement,
**All we run to the tomb of life, we hurry to see for ourselves. When we look
 with eyes of faith, we are amazed at what we find. That which seems dead
 and forsaken fills with wisdom and teachings for our lives.**

Reader Risen One, Sacred Teacher,
**All you send us forth with blessing to tell the powerful story of your risen life.
 May we tell this story again and again through the witness of our lives and by
 the courage of our words.**

(Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*, pp. 71-72—adapted CCJ)

2nd Reading The Magdalene's Blessing by Jan Richardson

We hardly imagined standing here,
 everything we ever loved suddenly returned to us,
 looking us in the eye and calling our name.

This is an invitation, a choice, a threshold, a gate.
 This is our life, calling to us from a place we could
 never have dreamed, but now that we have glimpsed its edge,
 we cannot imagine choosing any other way.

So let the tears come as anointing, as consecration, and then let them go.
 Let this blessing gather itself around us.
 Let it give us what we will need for this journey.
 We will not remember the words—they do not matter.

All we need to remember is how it sounded
 when we stood in the place of death and
 heard the living call our name.

Wisdom inspired by our God.

(from *Circle of Grace—A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* by Jan Richardson, pp. 156-58—adapted CCJ)

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Give the glory and the honor to our God!*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Give the glory and the honor to our God!

Gospel John 20: 11-18

Homily

Sharing—You are invited to give your thoughts on the readings or on the homily itself. This is a time of sharing. Discussions are done at another time. We ask that you remember the ABCs of sharing: please be audible, brief, and Christ-centered.

Water Rite and Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Please respond: I do.

Offering of Prayer for those in need... Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: You, O God, bring forth the bread of hospitality from the earth.

All: You made us to be companions, sharers of bread, to gather and to break bread. By the breaking of this bread, may we gasp at your Spirit's breaking forth in us.

Presider: On this Easter day we remember and give thanks for Jesus and the seasons of his life

- when he was full of life and hope and possibilities
- when life took him into unknown territory
- when life tested him to the limit
- when in the depths of his Winter, he believed Spring would come.

All: We rejoice that all Jesus lived for leads us to see beyond death and darkness and to believe in transformation beyond our imagining.

—*All extend hands*

And so we pray that your Spirit, ever present, be poured forth on us and on our gifts, that they and we may become for one another the body and blood of Christ.

We break bread as Jesus broke bread at the Seder, mindful of the call to love generously and faithfully, whatever the cost. Jesus shared this bread with his friends saying:

All: Take this all of you and eat. This is my body, which is given up for you. When you break bread together, remember me.

Presider: We take this wine, mindful of our responsibility to be bearers of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding. Jesus blessed the cup and shared it with those at table saying:

All: Take this all of you and drink. This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you. When you drink from this cup, remember me.

All: We share this bread and wine today committing ourselves to be Easter people. People who give our "Amen" to living Jesus' generous and faithful love. People who see beyond

the barriers, the pain, the darkness. People who live in faith, hope and love in all the seasons of our lives.

Presider: We give praise to God—

All: For the journey that life has been, for all that life is for us now, for all that the future holds, and for the mystery of life beyond death, as we say Amen!

(from *Sacred Journeys* by Jan Richardson, pp. 194-95, *Prayers for Progressive Christians* by Michael Morwood, pp. 173-74, *Praying a New Story* by Michael Morwood, pp. 68, 83—adapted CCJ)

The Prayer of Jesus—Our Father, Holy Mother by Jan Phillips from *There Are Burning Bushes Everywhere* (p. 36)—adapted CCJ

Our Father, Holy Mother, Creator of the Cosmos, Source of Life,
 You are in my mind, in my garden, in my cup of wine and loaf of bread.
 Blessed be your names: Mother, Allah, Beloved, Great Spirit, Radiant One,
 Yahweh, HaShem, Sophia.
 Your presence has come, your will is done on earth as it is in the cosmos.

May we give each other strength, mercy, tenderness, and joy and forgive each other's failures, silence, pettiness, and forgetfulness as we ask to be forgiven by those we've hurt.

Lead us home to ourselves and each other, to clarity, to oneness
 and deliver us from the darkness of our ignorance and fear.
 So we pray and so we receive. Amen.

Sign of Peace

Invitation to Communion—

Jesus, you make us worthy to receive you and by your word we are healed.

Sharing of bread and wine

Prayer after Communion

Presider Living God, we give thanks for this time together. May we remember that...

Leader whenever we walk in strange places,

All we shall find your footprints there;

Leader whenever we meet with unknown faces,

All we shall see your image there;

Leader and whenever we stumble into unexpected joy,

All we shall feel your heartbeat there. Amen.

www.textweek.com, from Rev. Rex A.E. Hunt—adapted CCJ

Announcements

Blessing—Seen (for Easter Day) taken from *Circle of Life* by Jan Richardson, pp. 154-55

Closing Song

Rise Up, O People, Proclaim Christ-Sophia Has Risen by Jann Aldredge Clanton

(Sung to the tune of Praise to the Lord)

Rise up, O people, proclaim Christ-Sophia has risen.
Raising the buried and opening the doors to all prisons.
Rise up and shine! Lighting the pathway divine,
as we declare this new vision.

Come now, O sisters, and join Christ-Sophia in daring.
Brothers, join in and lay down heavy burdens you're bearing.
Come, one and all. Follow the life-giving call,
changing the world through deep caring.



*Happy Easter to you and your family! Thank you for worshipping with us.
May the Life and Love of the Risen Christ fill your hearts.*

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