

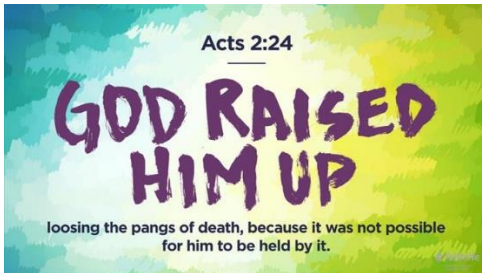
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

May we together experience the presence of God.

** - You are invited to stand at these times.... if you are able*

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude



Welcome

We're still basking in the glow, we're still celebrating, or we should be. Notice today is named "Second Sunday of Easter." That "of" is important. We are Easter people. All of our worship is Resurrection worship. We continue to proclaim that Christ is Risen when we gather for worship during this season and, yes, we can proclaim that all year long because every Sunday is Easter Sunday.

Today we find our center as Peter Addresses the Crowd in Acts 2:14, 22-32:

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

22 "Fellow Israelites,[a] listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,[b] a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— 23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David says concerning him,

*'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.*

*27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.*

*28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

29 "Fellow Israelites,[c] I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Foreseeing this, David[d] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,[e] saying,

*'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'*

32 *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.*

So, let us worship completely, engaged, and focused on the worship moment, complete in and of itself and let us begin by joining together in our call to worship.

Call to Worship

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. (Racine, Sumner Center, Wykoff UMC Testify!

Christ is risen!

With your voices . . . ***Christ is risen!***

Testify! ***Christ is risen!***

With your love . . . ***Christ is risen!***

Testify! ***Christ is risen!***

With good works . . . ***Christ is risen!***

Testify! ***Christ is risen!***

Let your light shine . . . ***Christ is risen!***

City of Racine/Sumner Center/Wykoff, hear the good news. Christ is risen indeed!

***Praise Hymn UMH # 701 "When We All Get to Heaven" (verses 1-3)**

Author: Eliza E. Hewitt (1898)

Composer: Emily D. Wilson (1898)

**1. Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
he'll prepare for us a place.**

Refrain:

**When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!**

**2. While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
clouds will overspread the sky;
but when traveling days are over,
not a shadow, not a sigh.
(Refrain)**

**3. Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving every day;
just one glimpse of him in glory
will the toils of life repay.
(Refrain)**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we confess our preoccupation with Proof. Too often we muffle faith and hand the microphone to Proof. We'll move if Proof says so. We'll act if Proof gives the okay.

After your resurrection, we may have asked to touch you a second time -- just to make sure. We confess our frequent failure to trust you. Hear us and help our unbelief, we pray. *Words of Assurance*

The Lord did not abandon Thomas to his unbelief, nor will the Lord abandon us to ours. God hears our cries for help and answers. God knows how we struggle to believe what we can't see or touch. Know that our Invisible God makes forgiveness visible to our hearts and souls. See God at work in your life from this day forward. Now trust your spiritual sight more each day. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Lesson.....John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So 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."

26 A 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." 27 Then 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." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue[b] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Word of God for the People of God! Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH #420 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God" (verses 1-3)

Author: Edwin Hatch (1878)

Composer: Robert Jackson (1888)

**1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

****Meditation****

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Good and gracious God,
Our most glorious Creator,

As we greet the signs in nature around us:

Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,

In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,

We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,

Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.

The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.

For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome

darkness, and love will conquer death.

As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,

By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us as we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.

We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of

Easter joy and hope.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever who taught us to pray Our Father...

Lord's Prayer

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95)

(Wykoff)

God of miracles, in the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, you overturned natural laws. Thank you for the patience Jesus showed to Thomas who was afraid that it was too good to be true.

You still do wonders, transforming people's lives by your Spirit working through disciples like us.

Direct our offerings to strengthen the ministries of this church, especially among people who struggle with doubt or feel distant from you. We pray through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen. (John 20:19-31)

We Go Forth To Serve God and Our Neighbors

***Departing Hymn UMH #462 "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"**

Author: Louisa M. R. Stead (1882)

Composer: William J. Kirkpatrick (1882)

**1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."**

Refrain:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!**

**2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]**

**3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]**

**I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
and I know that thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end. [Refrain]**

*** Blessing***

Go in peace, filled with the Holy Spirit and the mercy of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude