

Prairieland Parish

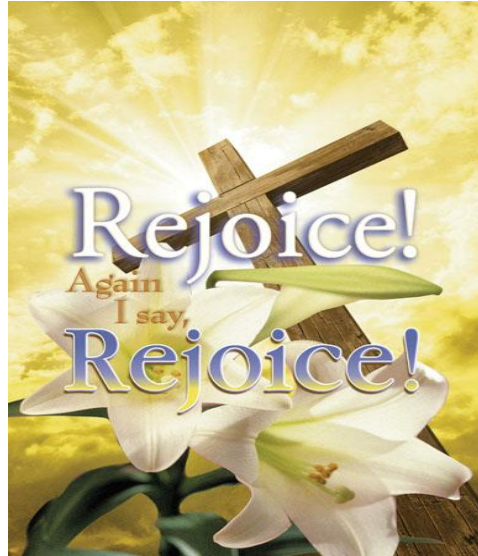
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

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



Easter Sunday Greeting

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Death has been swallowed in victory.

People: The grave has lost its sting.

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed!

And we are alive in Christ! Glory to God! Alleluia!

We Are Invited Into God's Presence and Offer Our Praise

***Praise Hymn**

***Morning Has Broken: Easter Call to Worship**

Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves.

The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.

We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."

The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright!

The Son is risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.

Now we understand what Christ said, what God did.

Now we can proclaim, CHRIST IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!

*** Opening Prayer**

Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***Hymn**

We Hear God’s Word

Gospel Lesson.....John 20:1-18

New Revised Standard Version

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 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. 2 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.” 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look[a] into the tomb; 12 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. 13 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.” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,[b] “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 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.’” 18 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.

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

Faith Hymn

****Meditation****

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD
Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living 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.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*
UMH page 13**

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 to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen.

And Now with the confidence of the children of God let us pray. Our Father...

Sharing of the Elements

Joys/Concerns

EASTER PRAYER

God of the bright and morning star, God of the rising sun, God of darkness banished,
we praise and worship you!

For empty tombs: thank you!

For disciples running with good news: thank you!

For your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected: thank you!

We celebrate your victory over death,
over all the powers that would defeat us.

Help us to grasp resurrection; to understand its power, to see its force at work in our
world.

On this day of great gladness empower us to be your ambassadors, proclaiming good
news.

Good news in our kitchens and living rooms,
good news in the offices and workshops
good news in the fields and factories

Help us to be that good news, walking softly on this good earth caring gently for all
people, living hopefully into your kingdom.

Today we think of all who are grieving, especially...

[name those who are grieving]

and for the sick and dying....

[name those who are ill]

for places in the world that are torn by war and bloodshed...

[name countries at war]

In this world of broken hopes and dreams we catch sight of your kingdom come, in the person of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in us forever. Amen.

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of New Beginnings, On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ. Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently -- eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve. May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive, love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained. Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen

****Departing Hymn***

***Sending Forth**

May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with his love and fill you with joy in the faith. Easter People Go and be the example Christ has called of us to be. Amen!

*** Postlude***