

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday
Order of Worship

Seasonal Theme:

Resurrection and new life in the Risen Christ.

Theme for the day:

Jesus is Risen!

Gathering Prayer:

This past week, hatred and fear did their very worst, despair had its day.
Sorrow and sadness were in the air, a gloom would not go away.
But early on the first day of the week, Mary saw the Lord, and now we all can say
Jesus is alive! The unending unquenchable power of God's love has brought him
back! **Alleluia! Amen!**

*Call to worship: (we read together the text in **BOLD**)*

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God. Jesus, our Lord, has conquered
the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination:

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the
Word of Life. Amen.

Reading from Scripture:

Matthew 28:1-10

[text of Scripture follows the service, beginning on page 4]

Message: **GO AND TELL THAT THE LORD IS RISEN!**

Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of the Holy Communion

In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread (or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready. Let us come together to Christ's table.

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

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 thanks and praise.

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He 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 your saving 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. We proclaim again the mystery of faith, saying,

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

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Let them empower us to live in the world as faithful witnesses and fruitful disciples.

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 God, now and forever.

Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Receiving

O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

(service continues on following page)

Without the breath of life, we are nothing; and without the word of God, we are dust. Let us offer our lives and offering to God (which you may send by mail, if you wish).

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

God of all gifts, we thank for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have nothing set before them, and proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

Stay firm. Continue to be witnesses of Resurrection, messengers of the good news. Preach the peace of inclusivity and the undying love of our Risen Lord.

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Scripture Reading – April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
HALLELUIA!