

THE SEASON OF EASTER

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Ascension Sunday

Prelude

Lo, the Winter is Past

Gathering— Let us gather in this space. We gather from many places. Let us center ourselves for worship. We are one in the Spirit with joy in our hearts. Let us receive God’s blessing. God’s blessing is ours. We are God’s beloved! Amen!~

A Time of Prayer—Breath of God, renew us in this time of worship. Help us set aside thoughts that trouble us. Help us pause the challenges of the world that taunt us. Pour your spirit within each one of us, that we may be re-spirited in this hour by your power and your grace. Amen.~

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Hear God’s Word

Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Meditation

Superpowers

Hymn

Come, All Christians, Be Committed, 459

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—We are blessed by God’s word. Let us respond boldly to God’s grace with abundant giving for the mission and ministry of this church.~

May Benevolence—Our Church’s Wider Mission

Special Offering—One Great Hour of Sharing

Esmerelda Robles lives in rural Honduras. She and her neighbors participate in a “pass chain” program. A family receives a pregnant pig, sheep, or cow; families are taught how to feed and care for the animals. When the next piglet, lamb, or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. “A dream we have as a family,” Esmerelda says” is to have a micro-business for the production and sale of meat.” Families now envision a future not possible before. This is just one part of a program to improve food security. This program and its components are made possible because of your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Doxology

We Give Thanks—Endless source of life, pour your blessing upon the gifts we bring before you. Bless our giving in your abundance for the restoration of all people. Through our offering, may those who are weary be energized; may those who feel forgotten find a home. With the joy of your grace filling our hearts, we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

Crown him with Many Crowns, 317

Benediction— Christ is lifted up! As he withdrew, he offered a blessing. Receive his blessing today and be commissioned to serve God in this world with the superpowers of the Holy Spirit leading you. Offer healing to the broken and care to the empty. Transform the world through your faithfulness. Amen.~

Postlude

A Blessing