



Easter Sunday

Prelude

Sabbath Morning

Gathering

When I point to you, you're invited to shout "Hallelujah!"

Leader: At early dawn, when the light was just emerging and the shadows still long and deep the earth began to sing a tender and persistent hallelujah. And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt. Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: At early dawn, with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes the women began to sing a grieving and faithful hallelujah. And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions. Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: At early dawn, when no one could remember the sound of hope or the promise of a new day rising the world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah. And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing. Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed.

People: Hallelujah.

Leader: At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies and injustices we gather to sing a grateful and liberating hallelujah. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

People: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!+

Choir

A Festive Introit for Easter

A Reading from the Psalms

I thank you, YHWH, for your goodness!
 Your love is everlasting!
 Let Israel say it:
 “Your love is everlasting!”

God is my strength and my song;
 God has become my salvation!
 Raise shouts of joy and victory
 in the tents of the upright:
 YHWH’s right hand is doing mighty acts!

No, I will not die—
 I will live to proclaim the deeds of YHWH;
 though YHWH has disciplined me often,
 I am not abandoned to Death.
 open the gates of justice for me,
 let me come in and thank you, YHWH!

it was the stone which the builders rejected
 that became the keystone;
 this is YHWH’s doing,
 and it is wonderful to see.
 This is the day YHWH has made—
 let us celebrate with joy!

Prayer—Resurrecting God, we meet you in the empty tomb where our griefs and joys, despairs and hopes intermingle. Through our prayers and praise this Easter day, open our hearts to remember that the power of love and life will overcome every death-dealing force, no matter how pervasive or persuasive. In this troubling and joyful time, dazzle us with good news, Holy Rising Up One, in whose path we follow and name we pray.

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.

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today, 288, with Bell Choir

Exploring Together—Where did you witness awe this season?

We Hear God’s Word—Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

Paula Prange

24 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵ The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He isn’t here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn’t believe the women. ¹² But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Special Music

My Redeemer, Kari Main

Meditation

An Awesome Sight

Hymn

In the Garden, 300

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Let us rejoice and give thanks this day, bringing our gifts to God.~

April Benevolence—Global Ministries

****Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day. Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ’s triumph over death. Amen.~

A Blessing For Easter Day

If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger
here.

Here
is only
emptiness,
a hollow,
a husk
where a blessing
used to be.

This blessing
was not content
in its confinement.

It could not abide
its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,

the pressing stench
of death.

So if it is
a blessing
you seek,
open your own
mouth.

Fill your lungs
with the air
this new
morning brings
and then
release it
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing
breaks forth
in your own voice,

“Risen” by Jan Richardson

how your own lips
form every word
you never dreamed
to say.

See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to
repeat it,
but louder,

how it draws you,
pulls you,
sends you
to proclaim
its only word:

Risen.
Risen.
Risen.=

***Hymn

Christ Is Alive! 312

Benediction—We have heard the story. Life triumphed over death. Grief became joy. Go now and tell the good news: Christ is risen! Alleluia!~

Postlude

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