

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B April 25, 2021

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

We thought death was always the end of the story, until God showed us new life in the resurrection. We thought enemies were always enemies, until God showed us new love on the road to Damascus. We thought despair was always paralyzing, until God showed us new hope in bulging fish nets. What is God waiting to show us today?

***SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 28:16-20**

*** OPENING HYMN: #473.....Lead Me, Lord**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What hope is there for us when our life denies that Christ is our Lord?

People: Our hope is in our risen Lord, who not only forgives us, but calls us to serve him with faithfulness.

Leader: That forgiveness was given to Peter when the risen Lord appeared to him and called him to be a shepherd of the church.

People: We love Christ the Lord and want to give him our best service for the nurturing of his church.

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

O Lord, whose son suffered because of man's denial, yet offered forgiveness with a challenge to serve him: Call us from our life-styles that deny his Lordship over our lives that the genuine love we feel towards Christ may be expressed through a life of service in his church. We pray in his name. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

177..... He Is Lord

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

We love your Son, who is our Lord, O God, and we enjoy expressing that love in the worshipping congregation. But we confess that, in the dark corners of unbelief, we are afraid to let our love be known. Forgive us when our behavior has convinced others that Jesus is not our Lord. Give us determination to put our love into action that your church may not suffer by any carelessness of ours. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

176 Majesty, Worship His Majesty

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this song of praise that God's people have been singing for thousands of years:

"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit."

God heals all wounds, rescues all sinners,
and forgives all debts.

Join the song of praise!

***SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:24-29**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "I want to have your experience"

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 328.. Surely the Presence of the Lord
CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns**

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

*** CLOSING HYMN: #666..... Shalom (2 x's)**

*** DISMISSAL BLESSING**

1st Scripture Reading: Mathew 28:16-20 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go [☩]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." [☩]Amen.

2nd Scripture Reading: John 20:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, [☩]"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."



April 25, 2021
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