



Daily Prayer
+ Wednesday, April 29, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 99:1-5

L: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

C: He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

L: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

C: Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

L: The King in his might loves justice.

C: You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

L: Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn

#488

He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer! Christ victorious,
Rising glorious, Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

Reading

John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 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." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

The Mary in our reading today from John 20 is Mary Magdalene. She had arrived at the tomb at early dawn with the other women. The angels had rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb with an earthquake. Mary had heard that Jesus had risen from the dead and so

she returned to Peter and John and told them that the tomb was empty, saying, *"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."* (John 20:2)

Notice that Mary at this point is unsure about the meaning of the empty tomb. Although she had been told by the angels that Jesus had risen from the dead, she did not yet understand it or believe it. As Mark writes, *"And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them."* (Mark 16:8)

Mary was bewildered and frightened and astonished, and so, after returning to tell the disciples, and after Peter and John ran off to examine the tomb, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb herself, a second time. As John reports, *"Mary stood weeping outside the tomb."* (John 20:11)

Mary stood at the tomb because this was the place where Jesus had been laid. Her faithful teacher and friend had been laid in the tomb on Friday. Now his body had gone missing and she did not know who had taken him, or why, or where.

And so she was weeping. And because Jesus loved her and because he wanted to comfort her in her sorrow, Jesus came to Mary and appeared to her, saying: *"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"* 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."* Jesus said to her, *"Mary."*

*She turned and said to him in Aramaic,
"Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). (John 20:15-16)*

Here Mary was given her Easter gift. Jesus appeared to her risen from the dead. The joy and the surprise of Easter was revealed to Mary as he spoke her name. At first she did not recognize him, but when he spoke her name she realized who he was.

The truth is God knows our names. And he cares for us. And just as Jesus came to Mary and spoke her name, so also Christ will come to us on the Last Day, and call out our names, and raise us from the dead. Our Easter gift of resurrection is coming as well. And Jesus is sure to give it.

As he said, "*Because I live, you also will live.*" (John 14:9)
God grant it for Jesus sake. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collect

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you comforted Mary Magdalene outside of the empty tomb, showing yourself to be risen from the dead. Comfort us, as well, with the joy and hope of your resurrection from the dead; for you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

Hymn

489

Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[1] All the fair beauty of earth
From the death of the winter arising!
Ev'ry good gift of the year
Now with its master returns:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[2] Rise from the grave now, O Lord,
The author of life and creation.
Treading the pathway of death,
New life You give to us all:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[3] God the Almighty, the Lord,
The ruler of earth and the heavens
Guard us from harm without;
Cleanse us from evil within:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[4] Jesus, the health of the world,
Creator of all and redeemer,
Son of the Father supreme,
Only-begotten of God:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[5] Spirit of life and of pow'r,
Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all,
Life that in all may abide:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.

[6] Praise to the giver of good!
O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days;
Order our ways in Your peace:
Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the kingdom of death.