

Zion United Church of Christ
Le Sueur, Minnesota
The Rev. Janet Crissinger, Pastor
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

March 31, 2024

9:00 a.m.

"Let us not mock God with metaphor, analogy, sidestepping transcendence;
Making of the event a parable,
a sign painted in the faded credulity of earlier ages;
Let us walk through the door – The stone is rolled back."
John Updike from Seven Stanzas at Easter

PRELUDE

OPENING REFLECTION

Easter Daybreak

OPENING DECLARATION

Luke 24:4-6

"On the first day of the week, the women who came to the tomb were astonished by two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" they asked. "Behold, He is not here. He has risen as He said!"

People of God: The Lord is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The witness to the resurrection began with the tears of grief and a familiar Voice.

It begins with quiet footsteps in the first light of dawn.

Early in the morning, with their feet still covered in dew,

The women stopped in fear and trembling to grasp the news:

"He is not here!"

"He is risen, just as He said!"

This morning, in the company of Christ's church on earth and in heaven,

We celebrate God's triumph over sin and death.

We open our hearts in wonder, gratitude and love.

We lift our voices in songs of joy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

NCH 233

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

Yours Is the Glory

NCH 253:1 & 2

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Reader: Macie Sullivan

May God add a blessing to the reading and hearing of the holy word.

Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Finding Our True North”

Pastor Jan

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure You have entrusted to us. We would offer up to You this day our talents, our time and energy, but only as Your message of life and love have taken root in our lives. So, Lord, let us not only believe the resurrection but *live* the resurrection in fullness, that a broken and fearful world may see Your glory and be healed; through Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

CLOSING PRAYER

+CLOSING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

NCH #245

+BENEDICTION

+RESPONSE

May the Lord Always Be with You

Alleluia 