

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 3 & 6, 2024



*As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. - Mark 16:5*



The Women at the Sepulchre (The Angel at the Tomb of Christ) - Benjamin West

*This oil on panel is part of the Brooklyn Museum collection. Painted by Benjamin West in 1805, it depicts the angel declaring the risen Savior to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome.*

# Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG      “CHRIST IS GOD’S NEVER CHANGING ‘YES’” (vs. 1-2)      URW 95

GREETING      PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      STUDENT MINISTER

We gather to feast on the joy of new life.

**God has swallowed up death forever!**

We gather, liberated from the shroud of helplessness.

**God has swallowed up death forever!**

We gather, a people long expectant, awaiting restoration no more.

**Let us worship God, who has swallowed up death forever!**

\*OPENING HYMN      YOURS IS THE GLORY (vs. 1-2)      NCH 253

\*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

In confidence and faith in God’s mercy, let us confess our wrongs that we may receive grace.

**Gracious God, you give us new life, but we choose the ways of death. You breathe peace upon us, yet we pursue conflict.**

**You seek us out when we are afraid, yet we cling to our fears.**

Forgive us for turning away from you.

[Pause for a time of silent confession]

Shine your light upon us and banish all shadows, that we may live faithfully and joyfully for you. Friends of God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news: In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST      STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you!      **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

## Service of the Word

**POEM [SAT. ONLY]**

**“RISEN”**

**ANGELA JELF**

A native Englisher, Angela Jelf, writer and poet was invited to write Sunday school lessons that speak to all ages.

Very early,  
Sunday morn,  
Grief rising up like a gathering storm,  
Day-break,  
Hearts ache,  
As the weight of it all begins to dawn.  
Thorns, nails,  
Mournful wails,  
Laid in a tomb that wasn't His own,  
Laden with spices,  
We make our way,  
Not even knowing who'll roll back the stone.  
  
Earth quake!  
Guards shake,  
Heavenly beings in dazzling white,  
Our hearts pound with fear,  
Afraid to draw near,  
We fall to the ground at this awesome sight.  
  
Don't fear!  
He isn't here.  
Why search for the living amongst the dead?  
Hurry, go!  
Let everyone know,  
That Jesus is risen, just as He said.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Holy God, you are the way, the truth, and the life. By the power of your Holy Spirit speak your word to us, that we might know you more deeply and love you more faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark, chapter 16, verses 1 through 8.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON****DR. BRIGGIDA BELL - APR. 3****REV. JEFF VAN ORDEN - APR. 6****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****STUDENT MINISTER**

God, whose steadfast love endures forever, we come with joy to behold your works, to witness your resurrection, and to praise your holy name.

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

When we are trapped in our own tombs of illness, hunger, addiction, or despair:

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

When we are the ones yelling, "Crucify!" hurting others, harming your creation:

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

When we cannot believe the good news, feeling hopeless and helpless:

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

When we are mourning those we've lost, with pain poisoning our good memories:

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

When we are frightened by sudden change, unable to see the possibilities ahead:

**Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.**

**Bring us home, resurrected Christ. Gather us, restore us, raise us to new life in you. Amen.**

## *Service of the Table*

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

### **\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy God, Three-in-One, you spoke the world into being and breathed your own Spirit into us. You have journeyed with us through famines, rescued us from oppression, and delivered us to freedom. Even when we forgot you, you did not forget us, calling us back through your prophets and reminding us of your promises.

Thank you for your faithfulness from generation to generation and especially for your Son, Jesus Christ. He walks with us along the way and makes our hearts burn with his teaching. He breaks bread with us and opens our eyes to see your grace. He anoints us with your healing and pours out your love with abandon.

At their last meal together Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Thank you for this bread of life that Jesus blesses and shares, his very own body.

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me." Thank you for this cup of salvation, poured out for our forgiveness, his very own blood.

By the power of your Spirit, make these gifts a holy meal. Nourish us, restore us, and equip us to do your will.

**Our hearts and hands are yours, O Lord, dedicated to your service, an offering of praise.**

Keep us ever faithful until that day when we will gather at your table in glory, celebrating with all your children a feast of endless love.

**All honor and praise to you, holy God, Three-in-One, now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE****PRESIDER**

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free. Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers, and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

**COMMUNION SONG****“WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE, LORD”****URW 129**

*Going Forth as the Body of Christ*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION****PRESIDER**

Gracious God, thank you for this feast! You lay a table for us in the face of all our enemies; you feed us with the bread of life and quench our thirst with the wine of gladness.

**You nourish us with your presence and renew our hope in your future. All thanks and praise to you, O God, giver of life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

**\*CLOSING SONG “CHRIST IS GOD’S NEVER CHANGING ‘YES’” (vs. 3-4)****URW 95****\*BENEDICTION****SENDING & POSTLUDE**

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**Cover Art:** Benjamin West. The Women at the Sepulchre (The Angel at the Tomb of Christ)

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/967> Accessed July 24, 2023.

**Call to Worship:** David Gambrell, ed., Connections Worship Companion, First edition, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), 164.

**Confession and Assurance:** David Gambrell, ed., Connections Worship Companion, First edition, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), 155

**Poem:** Angela Jelf. Angela Jelf Writes. The Women At The Tomb. Risen. <https://angelajelf.com/tag/the-women-at-the-tomb/> Accessed July 27, 2023.

**Prayer of Illumination:** David Gambrell, ed., Connections Worship Companion, First edition, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), 156

**Prayer of the Community:** David Gambrell, ed., Connections Worship Companion, First edition, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), 149

**Communion Liturgy:** David Gambrell, ed., Connections Worship Companion, First edition, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), 157–58

*\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

*Equilla Curry, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Patricia Hall, Jack Kasander, Stephanie Oelrich, Cam Richesson '23, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18., and DV Yost.  
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor*

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**THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:**

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.*

*To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.*

*To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*