

MUMC At-Home Worship: April 4, 2021

Happy Easter! I am so excited you're worshipping with us today as we celebrate Christ's resurrection and God's victory over the forces of death and darkness. While we still struggle mightily at times and know well the touch of grief and loss, the story does not close with crucifixion and death is not the end. No, God's love could not be conquered! As the church has long proclaimed on this day: *Christ is risen!* May our worship be our joyful response: *Christ is risen indeed.* Amen! ~ Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Dear God, open our hearts to the joy of Easter and the promise of resurrection. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, United Methodist Hymnal #302 [watch/listen here](#)

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:42-16:8

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect:

1. While Jesus' male disciples are nowhere to be found, the women who have long followed Jesus go to the tomb early in the morning as soon as they could after the end of the Sabbath. What might this reveal about their faith? How might we embody the same faith?
2. When it was originally written, Mark's gospel ended in verse 8 and received the additional endings (16:9-20) by later editors. Why might the later editors have been unsatisfied by the ending of Mark at 16:8? What are some reasons why Mark might have left his conclusion intentionally unsatisfying for the reader?
3. Mark implies that an encounter with the resurrected Jesus moves the disciples from the fear they have at the end of this passage to being people of incredible faith, even if the specific encounter isn't written about here. What are some ways you have encountered the living Christ? How have you been changed by these encounters?

Hymn: *Up from the Grave He Arose*, United Methodist Hymnal #322 [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Christ Is Risen*, by Matt Maher [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Dear God, as we leave this time of worship, may we take the joy of the resurrection with us. Help our lives be a witness to your light that it may shine wherever we go. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
United Methodist Hymnal #302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" words are by Charles Wesley, 1739; music is Lyra Davidica, 1708; both are in the public domain.

Mark 15:42–16:8 (CEB)

Since it was late in the afternoon on Preparation Day, just before the Sabbath, Joseph from Arimathea dared to approach Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. (Joseph was a prominent council member who also eagerly anticipated the coming of God's kingdom.) Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him whether Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, Pilate gave the dead body to Joseph. He bought a linen cloth, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was buried.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Up From the Grave He Arose
United Methodist Hymnal #322

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
[Refrain]

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
[Refrain]

*“Up From the Grave He Arose” words and music are
by Robert Lowry; and both are in the public domain.*

Christ Is Risen
By Matt Maher

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
We fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely you bled, for us

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bow to none but heavens will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold you down
In strength you reign
Forever let your church proclaim

Oh death! Where is your sting?
Oh hell! Where is your victory?
Oh Church! Come stand in the light!
The glory of God has defeated the night!
Oh death! Where is your sting?
Oh hell! Where is your victory?
Oh Church! Come stand in the light!
Our God is not dead, he's alive! he's alive!