

April 24 ~ Even When the Doors are Shut.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to worship (Psalm 150)

P: Alleluia! Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

C: praise him in his mighty firmament!

P: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

C: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

P: Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

C: Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

P: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

C: Alleluia Christ is Risen!

Opening Hymn *"I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"* vs 1 - 4 LBW352

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my ever-living head!**

**2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
 He lives eternally to save;
 He lives exalted, throned above;
 He lives to rule his Church in love.**

**3 He lives to grant me rich supply;
 He lives to guide me with his eye;
 He lives to comfort me when faint;
 He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

**4 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.**

Please stand as you are able

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please be seated

Silence

Pastor's Reflection

Music

Please stand as you are able

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

Prayers of the People

Hymn of the Day *"I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"* vs 5 - 8 LBW352

- 5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 He lives to plead for me above;
 He lives my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives to help in time of need.**
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!**
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.**
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;
 What joy this blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Confession

Call to Reconciliation

P: When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away,
we have no need to confess.
But God comes into our hearts when we least expect,
so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace.

P: God of empty tombs and empty people: we hesitate to speak of your hope,
and truth

C: forgive us, and give us voice.

P: When we find it difficult to love another,

C: forgive us, and give us new compassion.

P: When we want to stand with the high and mighty,

C: forgive us, and put us next to the poor and oppressed.

P: When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,

C: forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.

P: When we cannot believe your Word of new life,
forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

Silent reflection

Assurance of Pardon

P: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives
with the light of Easter.

Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults,
and gifts us with grace and hope.

Christ comes, to fill us with peace,
that we may proclaim the good news of mercy
and forgiveness.

C: Thanks be to God.

Christ has come to us.

Communion

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: God, your steadfast love has been ours for generations. Through Christ you brought us out of the despair of death and into the light of eternal love.

C: Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to share, which earth has given and human hands have made.

P: May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, your life in sharing of this wine,

C: We celebrate the communion Jesus has shared with his community through the centuries and shares with us now, we celebrate our oneness with Christ and with each other,

P: We offer these gifts and ourselves to you; may they become for us the body and blood of Christ, healing renewing and making us whole.

Words of institution

P:For whenever you eat of this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he come

C: Christ has died

Christ is Risen

Christ will come again

Lord's Prayer

**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; *(Pause)*

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.

Please be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

**We gather round the table now in gratitude and awe.
Christ is the host, the nourishment, the message without flaw.
So now Christ's strength can feed us all in common daily bread.
We drink the life poured out and find our souls and bodies fed.
Around this table, in this place, are all named by Christ's name;
An unseen cloud of witnesses with us the gospel claim.**

Post communion blessing prayer

P: Filled with life,
we now have courage to speak of your truth in the world.
Touched by resurrection
we pledge to resist death wherever we find it.
Filled with hope
we embrace the promise of eternity,
and the call to make it known at every opportunity.
Through us may graves continue to be opened,
And may the dead continue to be awakened to new life. In Jesus Name.

C: Amen

Music

Announcements (see attached)

Benediction

Closing Hymn "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" see handout for music

**1 God be with you till we meet again,
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again,
'neath His wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**3 God be with you till we meet again,
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**4 God be with you till we meet again,
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is our light.

C: **We will celebrate forgiveness in the week ahead
through acts of kindness,
times of listening with care and love,
and deeds of generosity,
expecting amazing things to happen
when we ask God to help and guide us. Amen.**

Postlude