

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Mark Hayes & Douglas Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We have not seen the risen Christ;

**but we see him in the lives of
those transformed by grace.**

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

**but we have seen him in the faces
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

**but we have been called to bring healing
to the scarred of the world.**

Let us worship God.

* HYMN *The Day of Resurrection!* No. 118

CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

While it is true that we did not put Jesus to death, we are quite aware of all the ways in which we have not followed the paths of life that have been offered to us by God. Let us confess our sins, as we pray, saying,

**We lock the doors of compassion, God of Easter, so that we may share it only
with those we believe to be deserving. We harden our hearts to the cries around
us, because we cannot be completely sure of who is in need. We close our eyes
to the suffering around us, believing it will all go away if we don't look.**

**Forgive us, Hope of the Ages. You fill us with all the grace we need, not
because we are so special, but because we are servants, called to hold out our
hands to all in need, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, holds out his
hands to us, to lead us into your kingdom.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. From the shadows of life, God brings us into the Light of Christ.

From the prison of sin and death, God sets us free to live in hope.

**The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has raised him from the dead,
and given us new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* SUNG RESPONSE

No. 108 v. 1

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

HEARING THE WORD

EPISTLE READING I Peter 1:3-9 Pg. 222

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *His Eye is on the Sparrow* Words: Civilla D. Martin

Music: Charles H. Gabriel

Arrangement: Christopher Bennett

GOSPEL READING John 20:19-31 Pgs. 109-110

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Laura Sugg

TIME WITH CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

SERMON *The Sin of Certainty* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**We acknowledge one God alone,
whose demands on us are absolute,
whose help for us is sufficient.**

That One is the Lord,

whom we worship, serve, and love.

We do not fully comprehend who God is or how God works.

God's reality far exceeds all our words can say.

The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best.

The Lord's care for us is not always what we want.

God comes to us on God's own terms

and is able to do far more than we ask or think.

--from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* No. 399

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

