

Hearing God's Call to Become Community

Prelude "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" # 215

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn of Gathering** "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" # 229

1. That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light, when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad apostles saw their Lord.

2. His risen flesh with radiance glowed; his wounded hands and feet he showed; those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.

3. O Jesus, strong in gentleness, come now yourself, our hearts possess, that we may give thee all our days the tribute of our grateful praise.

4. Come, risen Christ, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide; your own redeemed forever shield from every weapon death can wield.

Seeking God's Mercy and Pardon

***Responsive Call to Worship** **Psalm 23** Dean Eslinger

L: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

L: he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Proclaiming and Hearing the Word

The Text Acts 4: 1-22 (NRSV)

Message "Resurrection Power" Rev. Schwartz

Time for Giving

Call for Our Offerings Dean Eslinger

Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 46

*Prayer of Dedication

Receiving the Visible and Tangible Signs of God's Grace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational/Pastoral Prayer

Communion Meditation and Invitation Dean Eslinger

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Departing to Serve Where God Leads

Closing Hymn "Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us" # 231

1. Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still, one who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill, Christ who once upon a hill-top raised against the power of sin, died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!

2. We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day, and have told him of the violence that has swept our hope away. He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light. Did our hearts not blaze within us as he broke the bread this night?

3. Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near. Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from every fear. In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn, if you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.

*Benediction Rev. Schwartz

Postlude "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" # 233

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday after Easter
Liturgical Color: White

Acts 4: 1-22 (NRSV) ¹While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. ¹⁶They said, “What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.” ²¹After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

L: He is risen

P: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

First Christian Church

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Sunday, April 25, 2021 ☩ 10:30a.m.

Welcome! May your Journey of Faith be encouraged while you seek God here today.