

CONSECON PASTORAL CHARGE

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Order of Service

Greetings: Sometimes we Christians allow our relationship with God and Jesus to shrink; not intentionally, just as a part of life's journey. Concerns catch up with us; our sense of our life darkens; day by day chaos seems to defeat peace; illness touches us or our family; the present COVID-19 pandemic seems to cling like a burr to a sweater, refusing to admit defeat.

Our prayers focus on our cries for help, "Jesus said, let your need be known to God." We do. Easter Sunday we are invited, called, to lift our eyes, to raise our voices, to shout our praises, to know the darkness in our journey and yet to know amazement at God's grace in Jesus Christ. Even the ultimate darkness, death, does not prohibit God's grace from giving life. Jesus tomb was discovered empty. Praise be to God.

Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

Lighting the Christ Candle: With sadness, but with hope, on this Easter Weekend we allow the Christ Candle to go out. Today, Easter Sunday, we re-light it with joy, praise, and thanksgiving. Jesus Christ is risen.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, the purpose of an Opening Prayer, a prayer as we approach you in worship, is not that it should be the sum total of our prayers. Rather, that it be a door opening on to gathered prayer, praise, and worship, a song that lifts our heart with grace, that lets the Risen Christ walk in. That is our prayer this morning. Amen

Hymn: #161 VU "Welcome, Happy Morning"

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;  
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today;  
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil your word;  
this is your third morning: rise, O buried Lord!

Refrain

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;  
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today.

2 + R

Earth with joyful welcome clothes itself for spring;  
greeted with life reviving our returning king:  
flowers in every pasture, leaves on every bough,  
speaks of sorrow ended; Jesus triumphs now!

3 + R

Author and sustainer, source of life and breath;  
you for our salvation trod the path of death:  
Jesus Christ is living, God forever more!  
Now let all creation hail him and adore.

4 + R

Loose our souls imprisoned bound with Satan's chain;  
all that now is fallen, raise to life again!

Show your face in brightness, shine the whole world through;  
hope returns with daybreak, life returns with you.

Invitation to Confession

We are sinners, we live short of a full relationship with God. We take time to acknowledge that and to hold up God's grace in Jesus Christ that fills the void.

Time of Confessing:

On this Easter Sunday, we do not seek to make a list of all our failings, you know that list all too well, Gracious God. We do want to transform confession into joy. We want to feel the joy of being lifted

up by your grace in Jesus Christ. Our list can never be too long to tie down your forgiveness. Let us feel it in our bones.

Moment for silent prayers.

#### Kyrie Eleison and Words of Assurance

Scripture tells us Jesus died and was buried, there was no life left in him. Death is the absolute antithesis of life, yet God raised Jesus to life. God also resurrects us to life. Praise be to our gracious God.

#### Scripture Reading:

Acts 10:34-43 - Peters preaches, "God shows no partiality."

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (VU p.837 Parts 1,2 & 3) God is my strength and my song.

John 20:1-18 - The resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. Mary reports: "I have seen the Lord."

Hymn: #155 VU "Jesus Christ is Risen today"

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

2

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!  
unto Christ our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

3

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!  
now above the sky he is King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

4

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
praise our God ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

#### Easter Thoughts

#### Invitation To The Offering

#### Prayer of Dedication:

There are two measures revealing joyful giving "from the heart." A deep gratitude acknowledging that we have been given to and a desire welling up in our hearts to give in response. Take what we have given and raise it up as gracious acts of discipleship in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: #169 VU "Good Christian All, Rejoice and Sing"

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Hallelujah - hallelujah - hallelujah!

2

The Lord of life is risen today!  
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;

let every tongue rejoice and say:

Hallelujah - hallelujah - hallelujah!

3

Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Hallelujah - hallelujah - hallelujah!

4

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored:

Hallelujah - hallelujah - hallelujah!

#### Benediction:

Amid this pandemic, COVID-19, which frightens and threatens us, which calls for space between us, which utterly changes our lives, we live feeling sadness and death. This day we go forth with God's Easter blessing, pointing us, amid daily life, to an empty tomb and, like Mary Magdalene, open to saying, "I have seen the Lord."