



Easter *SUNRISE SERVICE*

Faith United Methodist Church

801 4th Ave. NE, Waseca, MN

7 am March 31st, 2024

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is still dark and cold.

But our hearts are full of anticipation.

Why is that?

In the nighttime of our sin, the grace of God rises like the dawn.

It is Easter Day. This is the day of celebration!

What will you celebrate?

We celebrate that Christ is free of death and the grave!

What does that mean?

It means that we who believe in him have everlasting life!

Thanks be to God for the light of Christ. Hallelujah!

This is the Passover of Christ, the victory of love over sin and death, evil and violence.

Thanks be to God for the life of Christ. Hallelujah and Amen!

HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" UMH #302, vs. 1-3

PRAYER

God of life, liberate us from all that weighs us down.

Release us from the wounds that immobilize and the sorrows that linger,

O God of Life, set us free!

From the shackles of our fears, from the grip of envy and shame,

O God of Life, set us free!

From the power of sin, and all that keeps us from you,

God of Life, set us free!

From the lure of evil and violence, from all our hurtful ways,

God of Life, set us free!

From our slavery to the darkness, into your gracious light,

God of Life, set us free, and grant us your grace! Amen.

GOSPEL — John 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had

reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

HYMN "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"UMH #304

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

When the sun came up and shone on the empty tomb, it was like a brand new day. Everything was changed: there was a new Creation.

God of resurrection, by the light of Christ's rising, grant us a new day. By the mystery of your grace, raise us up to new life in the Spirit of Christ.

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, so we too might walk in newness of life.

By God's great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Blessed be God!

HYMN "In the Garden"UMH #314

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Beloved Mystery, you have raised Christ from the dead, and with Christ you have raised us into new lives. Give us faith to continually die with Christ—surrendering our lives to you—so that we might be raised with Christ. May the wonderful mystery of resurrection give light to our days, courage to our love, and hope to our hearts. We thank you for the gift of life, always made new. This is the day you are creating, and we rejoice in it! Alleluia!

HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"UMH #302, vs. 4-6

BLESSING

God of love, you have raised Jesus from death to life!

Lead us always into newness of life.

Light of Christ, rising in glory,

be the light of our hearts!

Spirit of Resurrection, grant us your grace.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING FORTH & PASSING THE PEACE
