4/16 Easter Sunday

Call to Worship

Leader: The empty tomb reminds us who we are:

**People: We are children of the resurrection!**

Leader: We are the painters of the rainbows, a colorful place of love!

**People: We are the breakers of loaves and fishes; the place where the welcoming table is set.**

Leader: We are the ones who walk with the Risen Christ.

**People: We are the people of Pentecost; fulfilled in the spirit of your.**

Leader: Yes! We are the Easter People, the people of the Risen Christ, the people – the very ones – loved by you!

**People: “Hosanna in the highest!” Thank God!**

**“Hosanna in the Highest!”**

**ALL: Come! With exuberance and joy in our hearts, let us worship God in prayer and praise and song together! “Hosanna in the highest!” Thank God!**

**“Hosanna in the Highest!”**

Unison Prayer

God of Love and Light,

we are in your shining and awesome presence.

We are overwhelmed by your love;

Even when we forget that is so!

Heal us, as you close the distance between you and us, please.

Open our our hearts to you and one another.

“Easter!” We say it again, “Easter!”

“Easter for all!”

Hosanna, indeed!

Assurance of Pardon [I will add this later.]

First Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you’ll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God’s angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn’t move.

The angel spoke to the women: “There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

“Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ That’s the message.”

The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. “Good morning!” he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, “You’re holding on to me for dear life! Don’t be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I’ll meet them there.”