

**Weisenberg Lutheran Church  
7645 Weisenberg Church Road  
New Tripoli, PA 18066**

***RESURRECTION  
EASTER DAWN  
Worship Service 6:30 AM  
March 31, 2024***

**Welcome to worship at Weisenberg!**

*Please stand as you are able for all parts labeled (\*). Worship leaders [Pastor (P:) and Assistant (A:)] speak the plain text. The congregation (C:) responds with the words in **bold**.*

**\*LITURGY OF LIGHT**

*The Great Three Days of Holy Week; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, are celebrated as one continuous act of worship.*

*Our worship continues outside, in the darkness of the tomb, as we celebrate the light of the risen Christ come into the world by lighting the Paschal Candle, the reminder of Christ's resurrection life present in the world.*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God,

**C: you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, we may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*With each phrase, the presiding minister traces each bar of the cross, the Alpha, the Omega, and the current year in the void space of the cross arms.*

P: Jesus Christ, yesterday and today,	+
Alpha And Omega, beginning and ending,	A Ω
all time belongs to him,	2
and all ages;	0
to him be glory and dominion	2
forever and ever.	4

**C: Amen.**

*The presiding minister traces the nails, representing the five wounds of Christ, on the Paschal Candle, while saying:*

P: By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

**C: Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is lighted.*

P: May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds. Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness; but because we have become the Lord's people, now we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*As the Paschal Candle is raised, the presiding minister boldly proclaims the resurrection, as the assembly processes indoors:*

P: The Light of Christ!

**C: Thanks Be to God!**

### **\*GREETING**

P: Christ is Risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

P: Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,

**C: and on those in the tomb, bestowing life!**

P: Christ is Risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. God of mercy,

**C: we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life**

with you, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with now and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

**\*GATHERING HYMN** (*Dressing of the Altar*)

*"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" No. 362*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
you have conquered in the fight,  
you have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
newborn souls in you to be.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise,  
and your saints in you shall rise.  
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

## **IMPOSITION OF OIL**

*The assembly may be seated.*

P: On Ash Wednesday, we covenant together to confess our sin and recall God's command that we repent and turn away from the sin of the world. Ashes are imposed on our forehead in the shape of a cross, a reminder of our own mortality and inclination towards sin. The following season of Lent is one marked by this action, where we recall daily that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Through the waters of baptism, we are joined together with Jesus in his own death and resurrection, and the assurance of that gift is sealed in us when we were anointed with oil and blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

On this Resurrection morning, we receive again the gift of oil; a sign of God's forgiveness poured out for us, an anointing which reminds of our baptism into Christ, and the assurance that what awaits us is not the dust of the earth, but the glory of empty tombs.

*Those gathered who wish to come forward and receive the imposition of oil may do so. Anyone who desires to receive oil but is unable to come forward, please let an usher or a neighbor know and the pastor will come to you. The following blessing accompanies the imposition of oil.*

P: Child of God, your life has been sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

*After everyone has received the blessing, we continue together with prayer:*

### **\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

A: Let us pray, God of resurrection,

**C: You loved us so completely that you willingly submitted to a human death, and by your sacrifice, you destroyed death forever. Give us new life every day, that we might proclaim the good news of your salvation to all the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**READING Psalm 118:21-27**

<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
**and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
**it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup>Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
**O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
**We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup>The LORD is God, and he has given us light.  
**Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" (ELW p. 142)**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON Mark 16:1-8**

R: The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th Chapter.

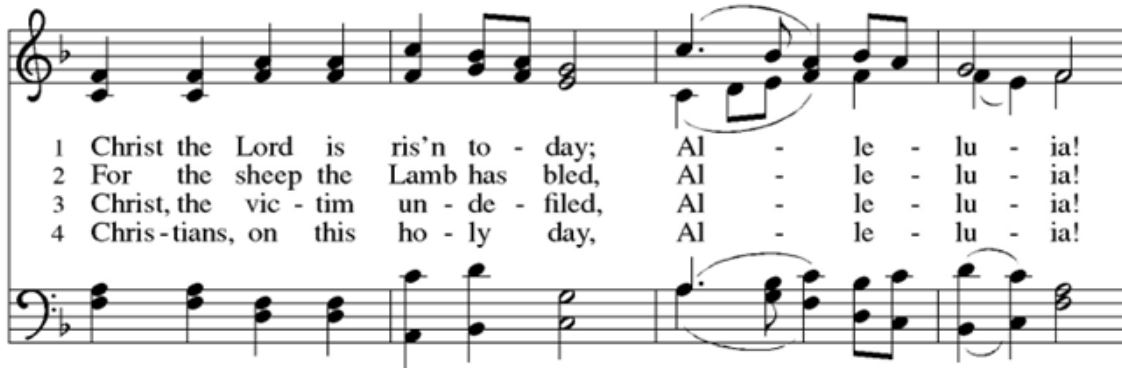
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.<sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.<sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"<sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.<sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.<sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."<sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."<sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

R: The gospel of our Lord.  
C: Praise to you, O Christ!

## HOMILY

### HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!" No. 369



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **\*NICENE CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS**

A: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Risen God, free us from our fear, that we might boldly proclaim the good news of all that you have done for us. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: Whether in seasonal climates or in climates where the cycles of change are more subtle, we will always see signs of renewal and growth. May each new sprout or newborn life form be a joyful

proclamation of the resurrection. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: As you called upon Jesus' women disciples to proclaim the resurrection, continue to raise up leaders from among marginalized communities, that they might open our eyes to new and effective solutions to the world's challenges. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: You promise us eternal life, where there will be no more sickness or grief. Until that time, send your healing strength to all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they might be comforted in their pain, (*especially...*) God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: People around the world are celebrating this holiest of days, the resounding declaration of what makes us Christians. Unite the whole church in every nation, that all might work together toward your reign of justice for all people. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: With gratitude we remember all whose Easter faith has inspired us in our own walk with you. May we rejoice now in their memory, and with them eternally in the world to come. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*"Hallelujah! Christ Arose!" ~ Livingston, Jr.*

### **SPECIAL MUSIC by Cindy Coyle**

*"An Easter Hallelujah" ~ Hipkins*

### **\*OFFERTORY HYMN "Let the Vineyard" No. 182**

*Please stand and sing as our gifts are brought forward and offered to God for their blessing and use in Christ's ministry through the church. Easter Offering envelope collection is shared with Good Shepherd Home.*



## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**C: O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **\*DIALOGUE(ELW p. 144)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **\*PREFACE(ELW p. 144)**

## **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY(ELW p. 144)**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

## **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you... shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our

table with your presence.

**C:Come, Holy Spirit.**

P:Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C:Come, Holy Spirit.**

P:With your saints, holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C:Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P: People of God, behold what you are!**

**C: Let us become what we receive!**

**COMMUNION SONG: "*Lamb of God*"(ELW p. 146)**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

481—462—660—367

### **\*TABLE BLESSING**

P:The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God,

**C: in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*BLESSING**

P: We come to the tomb and Jesus is not there.

**C: It makes no sense to us. We saw him crucified.**

P: An angel tells us that he is risen, just as he said he would be.

**C: We are astonished. Astounded. Alarmed. What does it all mean?**

P: It means this is the beginning of everything.

**C: A world transformed, a world made new!**

P: Go and tell the others—everyone you meet.

**C: We will proclaim it from the highest mountains. Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

No. 365

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*DISMISSAL VERSE** *“God Be with You Til We Meet Again”* No. 536  
***Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.***

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P: Christ is risen, Alleluia!*

***C: Christ is risen ideed! Alleluia!***

*P: Go in peace. Share the good news!*

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**\*POSTLUDE**

*“Song of Triumph” ~ Denton*

***It was a joy worshipping God with you today!***

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Now We Join in Celebration – Joel W. Lundeen - ©1978 Augsburg Fortress

Lift High the Cross – George W. Kitchin/Michael R. Newbolt/Sydney H. Nicholson - ©1974 Hope Publishing

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds – Paul Z. Strodach - ©1958 Augsburg Fortress

Song of Triumph – James Denton - ©1983 Lorenz

## This Week

Sunday:	No Sunday School	
Monday—Sunday:	Pastor Brandon on Vacation	
Tuesday:	Lowhill Food Pantry—Receiving	9-11AM
Wednesday:	Secretary office hours	4:15-6:15PM
Thursday:	Line Dancing	6:15–7:15PM
	4-H Livestock Meeting (basement)	7PM
	Worship Choir	7:30PM
Saturday:	Lowhill Food Pantry-Serving	9-11AM
	Kauffman Chicken Dinner Set Up	9:30AM
Sunday:	Worship/Communion (Pastor Cheryl)	9AM
	Sunday School	10:30AM
	Kauffman Chicken Dinner/Bake Sale	10:30AM-1PM

## **Weisenberg Church Trivia: In what year was the blacktop installed in front of the church and the west parking lot?**

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to your favorite charities including “Weisenberg Lutheran Church”! Eligible Thrivent Financial members must designate any previous year undirected funds by TODAY. For more information, please visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

Social Ministry is holding a **Spring Craft and Vendor (inside) and Yard Sale (outside)** at the church on **Saturday, April 20th from 9am to 4pm** to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief. We will also be holding a **Bake Sale**. For more information or to hold tables/spaces call/text Emma @ 484-357-8827.

**1st Communion Class** will be held Sunday, **April 28th, from 12-2:30 pm**. All who desire to participate are encouraged to join us, of age. Please see the sign up sheet in the Social Room to provide a head count. Lunch will be provided. Parents are expected to attend and participate. For questions, please contact Pastor Brandon. Those receiving 1st Communion will be celebrated in worship on Sunday May 5.

## **Bake Sale (priceless) to support National Youth Gathering**

**attendees – Sunday, May 5** Weisenberg Women of the ELCA have traditionally held a bake sale to support the youth that attend the National Youth Gathering held every three years. This year there will be 4 of our youth going to New Orleans, LA in July. We need bakers as well as baked good lovers!

Miss out on the Holy Land presentation on March 17? Have no fear! Use this link, or go to YouTube and search "03.17.24 Heavners in the Holy Land" to take a virtual tour with Pastors Brandon and Jennifer Heavner. <https://youtu.be/RN9999yrjDg>

## **Happy 275th Anniversary from the Planning Committee**

**Thank You to Pastors Brandon & Jennifer Heavner** for sharing a wonderful, interesting, and informative presentation on March 17 about their visit to the Holy Land in 2017. We were pleased with the turn-out of 56 attendees and thank you for your support.

## **Sunday, April 14 10:30-11:30 am** - 2nd Sunday WLTHS

The Weisenberg Lowhill Township Historical Society President will be one of the speakers to talk about this active organization based in Werley's Corner and the important role they play in this area. They are a valuable resource for anyone interested in local history, but also offer a variety of fun events for all ages; children's events, genealogy sessions, craft events, basket raffles, and house various historical items throughout the hotel as well as the many buildings and hosts The Old Time Plow Boys Club shows.

**Commemorative Candle** - Use the order form on the table in the social room to pre-order for \$20. Payment upon delivery.

**Trivia Answer: 1997**

**This Year Bear Creek Camp celebrates their 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary!**

**Registration for Summer Camp has now officially opened!**

Bear Creek Camp provides our church youth the opportunity to experience God's word in a unique setting. The camp's core mission is to help individuals explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation. This is done through fun, faith building and adventure on their nearly 3,000 acres in the Pocono Mountains. Bear Creek Camp is open for all children who have completed grades 1st-12th.

**Theme** is based off – **“The part of you in me and the part of me in you will keep us all together - One in Love.”**

**Camp** begins the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> and goes thru August 9th.

**You can register at** <https://bearcreekcamp.campbrainregistration.com/>

For discounts and detailed information, please see the newsletter or call the church.

***Our congregation is very grateful to all for presenting the beautiful flowers that adorn our sanctuary this Easter morning.***



**Main Idea: Fear plays a huge part in our story of faith—but because we know Jesus, fear does not get to cut our stories short.**

The ten verses of Mark's Gospel that follow today's text (v.9-19) tell the story of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene and to the disciples, casting out their demons and charging them to spread the good news of his resurrection far and wide. These verses are considered by many scholars to be an optional, or "long," ending to the book. They are thought to have been authored later, added mostly for the sake of softening Mark's already choppy tone and retroactively fitting his testimony in more smoothly with the other gospels.

Our passage this morning is the original ending to the Gospel of Mark. Verse 8 is the last line, and it reads, "...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." What if we stuck to this passage, just like the lectionary lays it out? What if we read only this version every year (or every few years)? How would that make us feel about the leaders of the earliest church? Probably a bit confused. And probably not very confident, either. Where is their curiosity? Where is their faith? Why were these the people trusted with spreading the good news of Jesus in those crucial, early days? How can fear have the final word in a central, biblical text? The way the original Gospel of Mark reads is that because Mary, Mary, and Salome felt afraid, their narratives just stop. There's no growth past that point. No development. They were afraid, and so the story is over.

That's what fear does. It tries to end things for us. To shut things off and shut things down and cut our stories short. And because of this, a life of faith necessarily entails trying our best to keep fear at bay. The man sitting in the tomb in this passage tells Mary, Mary, and Salome, "Do not be alarmed," because he wants them to hear what he is saying. He wants them to give themselves the opportunity to react in a way that fear would stifle.

But in this story, Mary, Mary, and Salome *are* alarmed. Faithful as they are and fresh as the man's imperative is in their ears, they cannot keep their fear at bay. And what the Holy Spirit promises us on this Easter Sunday is that that's okay. Our good news this morning is that when we find ourselves in a similar position, we don't have to worry about fear having the last word and bringing our stories to premature ends.

Because Jesus defeated death itself, we can conquer any fear through him. If a life of faith involves trying to keep fear at bay, it also entails liberation from this fear when all our efforts fail us. When, for any number of reasons, we can't muster enough energy or courage or trust or leverage to rise above our anxieties, Jesus is there to give us something new to work with. When we are scared into silence, Jesus is there to remind us what our voice sounds like—and that he needs us to use it to build up God's reign. When we are overwhelmed into oblivion, Jesus is there to carry us back to center and fortify us. To rejuvenate us. To inspire us once again. This is the promise of Easter Sunday: the new life on the other side of death.

**Scripture Summary: Jesus is no longer in the tomb—he has been raised from the dead! The time has come to share that news with the world.**