

Weisenberg Lutheran Church
7645 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone: 610-298-2437

RESURRECTION
EASTER
Worship Service 9 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**.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PRELUDE -Jubilant Ringers "*The Rejoicing*"~ Handel/arr. Thompson

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

C: Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

P: At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C: By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

P: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***PEACE(ELW p. 241)**

Reconciled to God through Baptism & Confession, we share a sign of the peace which passes all understanding with one another. Feel free to share a sign of peace with your neighbor at your own comfort. Waves, fist taps, elbow bumps, or handshakes all extend Jesus' greeting of hospitality and peace!

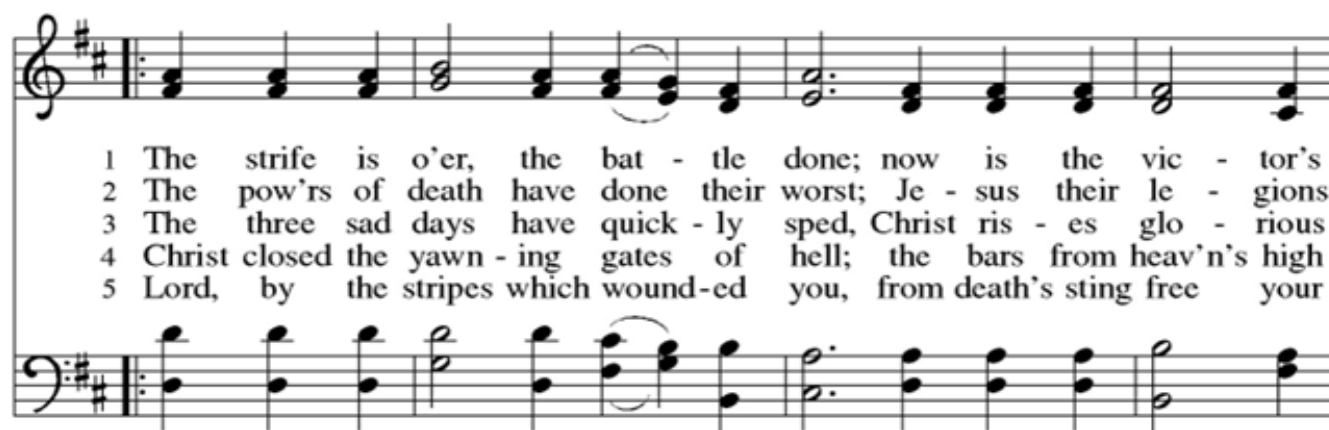
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

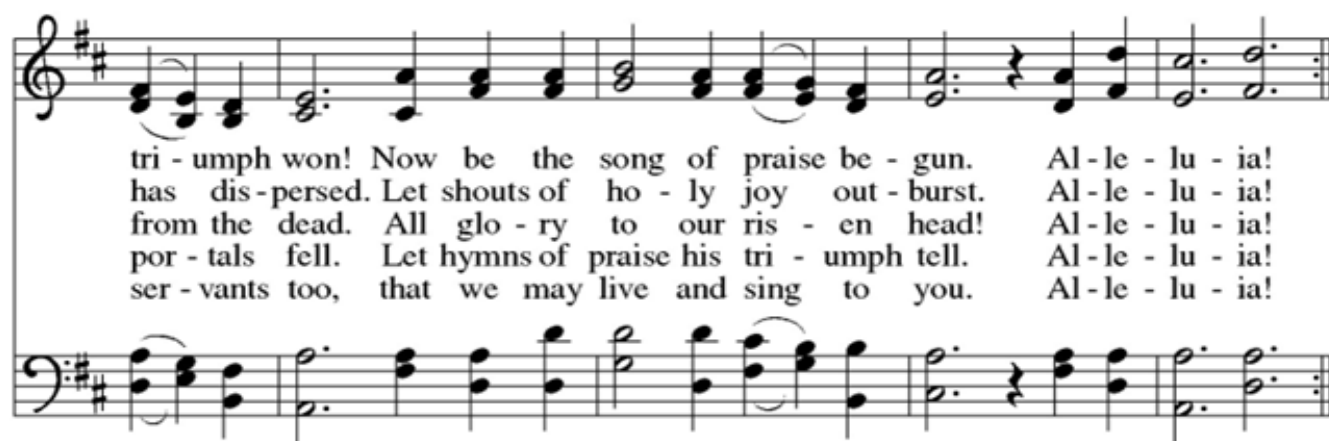
***GATHERING HYMN** "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" No. 366



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*GREETING

A: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

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

C: And on those in the tomb, bestowing life!

A: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Goodness is Stronger than Evil" No. 721



Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

Text from *An African Prayer Book* selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by permission of Doubleday,

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Music © 1996 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: 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.

PSALM 118:21-27

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ 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 READING** MARK 16:1-8

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

16¹ 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. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ 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**

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.*

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

"Rejoice, He is Alive!" ~ Shafferman/arr. Drennan (ASCAP)

***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: Blessed are you, O God,

C: 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.

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 for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, 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: May we 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.

***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 Till 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 indeed! Alleluia!

P: Christ is risen from the dead. 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!

Weisenberg Remote Worship 3/31/2024 Easter 9:00 AM Copyright Notice

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Come to the Table – Claire Cloninger/Martin J Nystrom - ©1991 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music/World Music

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

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

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

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 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**.

1st Communion Class will be held Sunday, **April 28th, from 12-2:30 pm**. All who desire to participate are encouraged to join us. 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.

This Year Bear Creek Camp celebrates their 50th 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 16th 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.

Trivia Answer: 1997

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.