

Worship for 18 April 2021
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: The bread of life opens our eyes.

ALL: The word of life opens our ears.

One: The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,

ALL: And by those wounds we are healed.

One: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you!

Hymn of Invitation – “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen. All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal: but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

Scripture – Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48 (see reverse)

Reflection – “Witness”

Prayers of the People & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed (see reverse)

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “Go in Grace and Make Disciples”

Go in grace and make disciples. Baptize in God's holy name. Tell of death and resurrection; Easter's victory now proclaim. Christ's commission sends us forth to the nations of the earth. Go in grace and make disciples, midwives for the world's rebirth.

Go and follow Christ's example, not to vanquish, but to heal. Mend the wounds of sin's divisions. Servant love to all reveal. Roles and ranks shall be reversed; justice flow for all who thirst. Go and follow Christ's example. Forge a world of last made first.

Announcements & Blessing

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that you sins may be wiped out...”

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What message does your life send to others? In you, do people see the repentance and forgiveness of sins that Jesus makes possible?