

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

10:30am

Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.

Call to Worship (responsive)

When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;

Our eyes are opened when He breaks the bread.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

When Christ is revealed, we will be like Him.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

Blessing and honor and glory to God!

Opening Prayer (unison)

Almighty God, through Your only Son You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may, through the renewing power of Your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

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.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our pleas for absolution have been heard. God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Living God, by Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Micah, Chapters 1 & 2

The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

Hear, you peoples, all of you; listen, O earth, and all that is in it; and let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. For lo, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. Then the mountains will melt under him and the valleys will burst open, like wax near the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem? Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards. I will pour down her stones into the valley, and uncover her foundations. All her images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste; for as the wages of a prostitute she gathered them, and as the wages of a prostitute they shall again be used.

For this I will lament and wail; I will go barefoot and naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, and mourning like the ostriches. For her wound is incurable. It has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.

Tell it not in Gath, weep not at all; in Beth-leaphrah roll yourselves in the dust. Pass on your way, inhabitants of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; the inhabitants of Zaanan do not come forth; Beth-ezel is wailing and shall remove its support from you. For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously for good, yet disaster has come down from the Lord to the gate of Jerusalem. Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish; it was the beginning of sin to daughter Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel.

Therefore you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib shall be a deception to the kings of Israel. I will again bring a conqueror upon you, inhabitants of Mareshah; the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam. Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair for your pampered children; make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they have gone from you into exile.

Alas for those who devise wickedness and evil deeds on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in their power. They covet fields, and seize them; houses, and take them away; they oppress householder and house, people and their inheritance. Therefore thus says the Lord: Now, I am devising against this family an evil from which you cannot remove your necks; and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be an evil time. On that day they shall take up a taunt song against you, and wail with bitter lamentation, and say, "We are utterly ruined; the Lord alters the inheritance of my people; how he removes it from me! Among our captors he parcels out our fields." Therefore you will have no one to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the Lord.

"Do not preach"—thus they preach—"one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us." Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Is the Lord's patience exhausted? Are these his doings? Do not my words do good to one who walks uprightly? But you rise up against my people as an enemy; you strip the robe from the peaceful, from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war. The women of my people you drive out from their pleasant houses; from their young children you take away my glory forever. Arise and go; for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction. If someone were to go about uttering empty falsehoods, saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," such a one would be the preacher for this people!

I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob, I will gather the survivors of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture; it will resound with people. The one who breaks out will go up before them; they will break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king will pass on before them, the Lord at their head.

Sermon

"Consequences"

Pastor Christina

First in a Series, "Micah: Walk Humbly"

Prayers of Intercession

The 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 glory forever. Amen.

Benediction and Sending

Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

God of surprising revelations, I thank You for rest and renewal. I thank You that when You come to Your people, You speak peace and invite faith in You. Make this new day a time when I will give more thanks for this life than I did yesterday. Give me ears to hear Your will for me, hands that are open to others, and eyes to see the beauty in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

For all that has happened this day, O God, I give You thanks. Even for the obstacles I faced, I thank You. Especially when I wobbled in doubt, I thank You because I did not fall. You came to hold me strong and help me to take the next step. Now give me rest, secure in Your never-failing arms. Let my dreams revolve around what is pleasing and good, bringing me to a new day with zeal for Your gifts. In Jesus' name. Amen.