

The Day of Resurrection

Words by John of Damascus (8th cent.) Tr. By John Mason Neale (1862)
Music: Lancashire by Henry Smart (1836)

Old Orchard Church

— Second Sunday of Easter —

April 19, 2009 — 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

See print copy for song.

I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

—John 16:20-22

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of Joy and Worship

Praise the Lord!

Easter morning was the first day of a new creation!

Christ is risen, Death has been conquered!

All who have bowed before Jesus,

Who trust that in his death

Their guilt died,

Are gathered into communities of praise,

The church of the living God!

Whoever has tasted truly

Of the powers of the age to come,

Sings from the heart:

Refrains of relief, carols of gladness!

The Pleasure of all that is to come

Tunes our tongue,

And our inward joys arise

And turn into a song.

Praise the Lord!

Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 118:1-4, 13-24

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Sermon

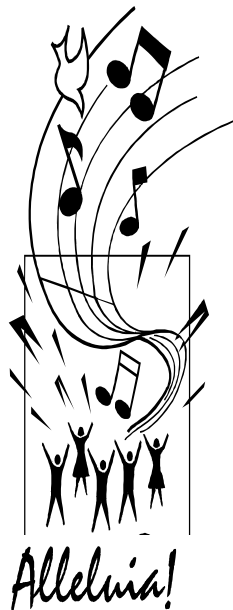
“Being the Demonstration That Christ Really Rose”

2 Corinthians 13:3-4

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**



Resurrection and Sadness

As Williams James pointed out, if we are indeed part and parcel of a meaningless universe, the kind in which Jesus could be murdered on a cross with no resurrection, then being depressed only makes good sense. Under these conditions the sensitive and sensible person will be depressed. I have discovered only one event in history that redeemed all this evil for me and gave me hope: the resurrection of Jesus. Allowing the resurrected One to be constantly present, I can deal with all the evil suffered by Jesus, by my friends, and by me. I can face all the rape, pillage, war and hatred that I hear about daily, and still have hope. The resurrection reveals the ultimate nature of the universe, and the risen Christ continues to give victory over the power of evil.

There is still another kind of depression that does not seem to be triggered by any known outer pain or crisis. Sometimes it is as if the darkness seizes me and I have no power of my own to tear myself away from it. Sometimes I feel as though I have fallen into the pit of hell and demons of hell are using their most exquisite tortures to force me to give myself up to them. Many of us seem to live on the edge of the abyss and the cliffs are constantly crumbling away even when our outer life tells us that we should feel fine. I have discovered that those souls which, like mine, have been worn thin by misery and lack of love as children are open to the direct intrusion of that destructive, down-pulling, befouling spirit which has caused so much misery in our broken and suffering world.

These inner experiences of evil can often trigger the physical symptoms of depression as completely as brain disease, hormonal imbalance or outer tragedy. I believe that this destructive reality is one factor in most kinds of depression. The good news is that we are given a particular way to be released from this kind of inner agony. When I engage my depression rather than trying to run away from it, allow it to be expressed in imaginative pictures or images, and then ask the risen Christ to enter and free me from my inner tormentors, usually I am soon free of the depression. The gruesome darkness retreats and I am accepted and loved by the Christ. Many friends who are attacked in the same way have been lifted out of the pit by this method and enabled to go about the business of life again.

—Morton Kelsey (1985)