

Call to Worship

Welcome to the Liturgy of Austin Mustard Seed. The word liturgy means the work of the people. This Easter Season let's join together as participants and hosts. Whether passionate believer or hopeful skeptic, we gather today, to celebrate our joy that death ends in the resurrection. Let's pause together for a moment of quiet. (Wait for a short moment of silence)

The disciples were assembled behind closed doors when suddenly You entered, O Jesus our almighty God.

You stood in their midst, and gave them Your peace;
You breathed the Holy Spirit on them.
You commanded them to wait in Jerusalem
until they would be clothed with power from on high.

Glory to You, our resurrection,
our light, our hope, and our Peace!

And so we gather as one body,
One church with one unified voice
to worship in love and peace
Amen!

Alleluia Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia

Psalm 159

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Confession

*Confession allows us a moment to honestly reveal our hopes and pains. Let us cry out to God as a community. Our response will be in **bold**.*

Creator God,
we confess that at times we are skeptics.
At times we doubt that You exist
because of the evil we have seen in the world.

Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world,
and it is hard to see Your love and light.
Sometimes, even those who bear Your name
do not walk in Your ways.

**Help us to see Your goodness in this world.
Help us to know Your love.
Fill us with Your love and goodness,
so that we might love one another,
and lift up one another in faith.
Amen.**

The psalmist says,
*“I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!”*

Know that you do not wait alone.
God has given us one another for this journey of
faith, to help one another.
Know that you do not wait alone;
Christ is with us.
Be encouraged, and encourage one another.
Go and share the Good News.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Explore the Scripture

Take a few moments to respond to the text you just read. Below are some questions to help generate conversation. Respond to whichever one (or more) resonates the most with you today.

1. What would it mean if death were destroyed?
2. What do you have hope or need hope for that God can resurrect?

(!) Inspire: What stands out to you? Why?

(?) Inquire: What questions do you have?

(*&%) Irk: Where do you have dissonance? What rubbed you the wrong way?

(+) Require: What change or growth are you being invited into? What do you want to take away?

Wrap up Q: What is God saying to you/us today?

Prayers of the People

We now invite you into a time of prayer. This is an opportunity for us to support one another and participate by sharing our prayer requests.

If you have something you're thankful for, end your prayer with...

"Let us bless the Lord"

If you have something you'd like prayer for, end your prayer with...

"Let us pray to the Lord"

(Share prayer requests and thanksgivings with your group. Invite the children to share as well.)

"With the prayers that have been spoken, and those that are unspoken, let us finish by praying the Lord's prayer together..."

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Eucharist

*(We now come to the center of our Liturgy, the Eucharist. So please examine your hearts and pray this prayer with me. Our responses will be highlighted in **bold**.)*

The Lord is with us

He is with us indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, God almighty.

On that first Easter morning, as the sun was dawning, Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead. The earth shook as the angel rolled the stone away. **No grave could hold his body down. He is risen. He is risen indeed!**

As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary looked on in fear, the risen Lord revealed himself to them, and they departed with great joy.

Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! For Christ Jesus has broken the curse of death and destroyed the power that it once had over us.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now given to those who believe in him.

Let us receive this spiritual power and use it wisely for the liberation of all God's people!

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. For there is none like him who can break the chain of oppression, evil, and the grave. He is risen and is seated at the right hand of God.

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose love consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

Glory to you forever.

For the moment when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.

Glory to you forever.

For this most blessed of all moments! When hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Glory to you forever.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and this flame of love burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!

Christ lives and reigns forever and ever!

Amen.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, the nation of Israel was celebrating their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. In the midst of the meal, Jesus took the symbols of the feast and gave them new meaning.

He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Later, Jesus took the wine. Again, He gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Now come together to the table, passionate believers and hopeful skeptics alike. Come because the Lord invites us to this remembrance of Jesus' death, broken sinners in a disrupted world made right through the cross. Come as a people who expect that the Spirit who raised Jesus from that death is bringing new life. Come and proclaim together that God's work is not done. The elements are gluten and alcohol free so that all may participate. The table is now open.

After Eucharist

Let us finish our time of communion together by reading aloud this prayer.

Christ, you are risen from the dead.

We are risen with you.

**May our life never deny this eternal life,
this peace and hope and joy.**

**Praise and glory to the God of life
who is stronger than all kinds of death.**

**We have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands
the bread of life.**

Strengthen our faith

**that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ the risen Lord.**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Benediction

*Austin Mustard Seed, As you leave today:
Go with this truth firmly placed in your heart
That our story does not end in death.
But that through death we are invited into new life.*

Christ sheds the light of Easter, into the darkest, hidden corners of our lives. He sees us fully but does not turn in shame.

He knows us as we truly are and loves us deeply.
He lives, to fill us with peace,
that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness;
that we may forgive as we have been forgiven.

May we go from here as witnesses of what we have seen and heard.

May we share God's love with all of those we meet.
May we bring hope to those who are in despair.
May we live lives of gratitude and praise.

May the love of God,
the peace of Jesus Christ,
and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit
be within us and among us until we meet again.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed Alleluia.

*Go in Peace,
Live the Church,
See you throughout the week.*

As we close we will take a few moments to share the Passing of the Peace with one another:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you!