

*Easter Sunday , April 17, 2022*

Greeting

Gathering Words:

God is good! **All the time!** And all the time! **God is good!** Let us join together to give thanks to the Lord, our God. Let us enter the gates of the Lord and give thanks, for this is the day the Lord has made! Come let us worship!

**Worship Music We Believe**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Living God, like a tomb’s darkness that gives way to light, open us this day to newness of life; open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace; open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us. Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now. We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death, to give us life, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (Verses 1, 2 & 4) #302

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 118: 21-29 (ESV)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM One Day

SHARING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

We come this day to worship and give thanks to our Lord. We do so with song, and shout and prayer. We also bring our gifts that they may be used to build His kingdom both here and in the larger world. Let us give a share of the Lord’s provision for this work of love.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, we offer these gifts as our testimony to your glory and as our commitment as your disciples. Bless our gifts to your work in the world

and to your reign here on earth. Through your blessing of our gifts, may death be destroyed and hope fill all of creation. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON John 20: 1-18 (NRSV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Verses 1-2) #452

SERMON I Have Seen the Lord Pastor Lyle

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Invitation to Communion

As we come to this table with the risen Jesus, we are witnesses to the resurrection! Let us forsake all that holds us back from this joy as we offer our confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Jesus our Host, we yearn for your Communion; we yearn for the hope of new life; we yearn to meet you here. And yet, despite your invitation, we find ourselves stumbling on our way. Forgive us. Hear now in silence the confessions of your people.**

Time of Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name!” In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven!

Please follow the liturgy at page 15 in the hymnal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

GIVING THE BREAD

As the bread is passed by the ushers, we will sing together Nothing but the Blood #362 (Verses 1-2). Please hold bread until instruction by the pastor. We will all share together.

GIVING THE CUP

 As the cup is passed by the ushers, we will sing together Nothing but the Blood #362 (Verses 3 & 4). Please hold the cup until instruction by the pastor. We will all share together.

\*CLOSING HYMN Up from the Grave He Arose #322

BENEDICTION

We have seen the Lord this day! Now go into the world to spread this good news. May you be blessed and may you be a blessing, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Janie Buchter – back pain Sage – insertion of feeding tube

Chris Diehl – cancer Luke Mengel - stent procedure

Family of Georgine Grube Scott and Jacquie Sheely - stroke

Family of Clyde Hartranft Peace in Ukraine

Clark Harding - surgery Megan Weir – deployed

Karl Haver – lung cancer Pauline Weitzel – recovering from fall

Lamar Horst – surgery May 4th Bonnie Wyniawkyj -family concerns

 Family of Jack Zimmerman

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,365**

**OFFERING April 10th  $1,510**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO DATE     $20,475**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE            $25,602**

**BUDGET YTD +$5,127 Attendance – 44 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

Adult Sunday School – 1015 Sundays

Choir Practice – Mondays 1PM

Bible Study – 1000-1200 Tuesdays with fellowship

Girl Scouts – 1st Thursday of each month

Blessings of Hope – April 23rd 1030-1100

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Psalm 150; Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31.

I Have Seen the Lord

Visiting tombs is important. It’s a time of remembering and thinking about the life of one who’s passed.

Today is about visiting a tomb, too, but is different than any other. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John visited a tomb, but there was no mourning, remembering and thinking about one who’d died. Unlike all the other tombs I mentioned, this one was empty! No other tomb visit has been like it before or since. Because of that empty tomb, though, visits to the cemetery are not hopelessly sad.

John describes Mary Magdalene as the first one to come to the tomb while it was still dark. She stumbled toward faith in the darkness. In Psalm 118, the psalmist thanks God for answered prayer and salvation. I am not sure that Mary Magdalene was going to give either of those, but John doesn’t tell us.

The stone rejected by the builder has become the cornerstone. This verse is often associated with Jesus, and for us as Christians it is certainly true. Originally it referred to Israel, rejected by others, conquered by others, and yet chosen as God’s chosen people. The cornerstone is of critical importance to a building, for everything that follows takes its alignment from it. For us, Jesus is our cornerstone.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. While Mary Magdalene probably did not go to the tomb to give thanks for the day, she would later. It was still dark when Mary Magdalene came and found the stone removed from the tomb. Maybe she stumbled over stones as she went to visit the tomb. She did not even understand what she saw when she got there.

She ran and told Peter and the other disciple that the body was gone. She wasn’t thinking resurrection. She was thinking body snatchers.

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb. The other disciple got there first but did not go inside. He looked inside but did not enter. When the other disciple entered the tomb, he saw and believed. It is odd, but nowhere does John tell us what he believed.

Peter and the other disciple then went home. But Mary stood outside weeping. An empty tomb suggested to her that the body had been stolen. Then she turned and saw Jesus. She did not even recognize Jesus when she saw him. To her, he was but a stranger, perhaps the gardener. She asked if he had taken the body away. Jesus asked Mary why she was weeping. She did not recognize Jesus until he called her by name. Hearing God in Christ call out her name filled her with a message of hope. She left the tomb not seeking news but prepared to announce the good news. She was the key witness to the earthquake of faith.

Jesus told her not to touch him for things were different. Jesus urges Mary not to hold onto the old ways in which she knew his presence. Jesus goes to the Father and will send the Paraclete, and thus make possible the indwelling relationship that he had promised his disciples (14:15-24). The abiding presence of Jesus is not through such appearances as we find in this passage, but through the life of the church.

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” Of all the possible candidates to witness Jesus' resurrection, she was the one God chose as the first witness.

To bring it to today: the good news is that Christ brings life out of death. This proclamation is the foundation of our faith.

How does Jesus matter now in my own life? The message of Easter is that Christ makes my life new. I am a new creation because of his death on the cross. I am made new. This new creation that Christ is bringing into existence in a garden is new creation. I can say with joy the This is the day that the Lord has made. I can rejoice and be glad in it. And so can you. Amen.

Sermon Quiz

1. In Psalm 118, the psalmist thanks God for answered \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The stone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the builder has become the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ in it.
4. It was still \_\_\_\_\_ when Mary Magdalene came and found the stone removed from the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She \_\_\_\_ and told Peter and the other disciple that the body was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When the other disciple entered the tomb, he \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_ asked Mary why she was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. She did not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus until he called her by \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Jesus told her not to \_\_\_\_\_\_ him for things were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Mary Magdalene went and announced to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, “I have \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.”

Last Week’s Sermon Quiz

1. Psalm 24 is about the entry of human beings into the presence of God.
2. David says that those with clean hands and pure hearts will be blessed as they seek God.
3. Even the Temple itself will lift its gates and doors, that the Lord may enter.
4. In John’s Gospel, Jesus enters the capital city, Jerusalem.
5. The procession we celebrate on Palm Sunday was most likely a protest march.
6. Jesus entered the city riding on a donkey.
7. The Pharisees grumbled as they were left in the dust of the crowds following Jesus.
8. Jesus predicted that his death would produce “many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.”
9. The leading priests objected to Pilate’s sign calling Jesus ‘The King of the Jews.’
10. We choose the way of the nails when we give of ourselves for others.