

Mennonite Church of Normal
April 4, 2021

EASTER Sunday: Deep in the feast: Called to deep living

Focus: We have seen the Lord! A rich feast has been prepared for all peoples on the mountain of God. Like Mary, Jesus calls us each by name into abundant life.

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude Dorothy Loepp

Welcome/Announcements Ben Roeschley

Call to Worship Ben

One: And while it was still dark, Mary found the light!

Many: The disciples came running, but they did not understand.

One: Mary stood weeping and saw angels but did not recognize Jesus.

Many: But when Jesus calls our name, then we recognize the way, the truth, and the life.

One: And then there was feasting! And there is feasting to come.

God will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines
and will wipe away tears from all faces.

**Many: It will be said on that day, "This is our God for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice. There is peace by Jesus Christ."**

One: Hold firmly to the good news, which you received, in which you stand,
through which you are being saved.

**All: *Let's open the gates of righteousness to enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.***

Opening Prayer Ben

Praising the Name of Jesus

Songs of Praise

VT 355 Thine Is the Glory

VT 347 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Worship music Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal Youth Choir 4/16/17

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story: Annette Harnish

Invitation to Listen:

VT 405 Listen to the Word

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV) and John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Elsa Raab

Sermon: Christ is Alive! Live the Feast Prepared for All

Gary Martin

Receiving God's Grace

Response Song: VT 332 In Christ Alone

Affirmation of Faith:

Ben

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We give thanks from the depths of our hearts!

One: Once weeping, now proclaiming:

“I have seen the Lord!”

Many: Once famished, now feasting:

“This is the God for whom we have waited!”

One: Once divided, now convicted:

“Jesus Christ is Lord of all!”

Many: We shall not die but we shall live and keep telling the deeds of the Lord.

One: Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love, O God.

You have come to us in Jesus Christ.

Many: We answer your call to deep living!

Response Ritual: Feasting Together -- Communion

Gary

Response Song: VT 701 You are All We Have

Sharing Joys & Concerns; Prayer

Melika Hershberger

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending Hymn VT 565 Christ Is Alive and Goes Before Us

Benediction

Ben

Postlude

Dorothy Loepf

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV)

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she

said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,^(b) "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.