

**ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Easter Sunrise Service*

*April 20, 2025*

Greeting & Prayer

**Old Testament Reading**

**Genesis 7:1-9:13**

Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup> Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; <sup>3</sup> and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup> For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” <sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. Then <sup>12</sup> the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>17</sup> The flood continued forty days on the earth, and the waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. When the waters were dried up from the earth, Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked and saw that the face of the ground was drying. <sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> “Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup> Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” <sup>18</sup> So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Prayer

**Second Old Testament Reading**

**Exodus 14:10-27**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup> But Moses

**Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

Accept the Easter light that burns in each of us, a pillar of fire that glows to your honor. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven, and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness, to dispel the darkness of the night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find our flame burning brightly. Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

***Luke 24:1-12***

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Leader: This is the Word of God, for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Devotion

**Perplexed, Terrified, & Amazed!**

Rev. David Magruder

Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

† Carrying the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

† Dismissal with Blessing

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*Join us for pancakes and fellowship in the Social Hall  
immediately after our Sunrise Service.*



# *Happy Easter*

Blessing to all who gather this morning to celebrate  
the discovery of our risen Lord. Let us go into the  
world in the strength of an ever-present Jesus Christ,  
Our Savior.



Pastor: Rev. David C. Magruder, Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom  
Accompanist: Tara Thomas, Youth Ministry Director: Glenna Usselman

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*Zion's Mission Statement: By following Jesus Christ, we live to bring glory to God as  
we use our gifts to grow, share, nurture, and serve.*

said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.<sup>14</sup> The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.<sup>22</sup> The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup> At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. <sup>25</sup> He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” <sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.

Prayer

**Third Old Testament Reading**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Prayer

**Epistle Lesson**

**Romans 6:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united

with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer

**† Easter Proclamation**

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of our King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Holy Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God’s people!

**Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

This is the dawn when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the dawn when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the dawn when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave, you gave away your Son.

**Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer! Most blessed of all mornings, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this time scripture says: “The night will be as clear as day: it will become my light, my joy!”

The power of this holy dawn dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.

New day truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, and we are reconciled with God! Therefore, Heavenly Father, in the joy of this new day, receive our morning sacrifice of praise, your church’s solemn offering.