

SUNRISE SERVICES EASTER

LEADER SCRIPT 4.4.21

A

NEW

DAWN

NOTES ON LITURGY

This Easter liturgy is designed to be as interactive as you and your gathering are comfortable. The liturgy to follow includes scripture reading, reflections, prayer and call and response. Feel free, as always, to augment as the Spirit of God guides. As a leader your speaking parts are in blue.

SCRIPT

This past year has been filled with loss and fear, with disappointment and death.

And yet today, the sun still rises, we are still alive, and we worship a living and life-giving God.

Nearly two thousand years ago, a scattered band of Jesus' students awoke with loss and fear, having lived through disappointment and death. They waited behind locked doors, unsure of their future, and they went to the graves, to tend to the body of their slain leader and friend, only to find that Jesus was not where they expected him to be; that Jesus was alive.

For decades, in some places for centuries, Jesus' first followers didn't have fancy buildings they called churches. They didn't have instruments or choirs or really much else at all. They had the testimony they had inherited, that God is love and Jesus Christ, God's prophet and Son and witness, was alive. They had their hope in God's tender and powerful presence with them. And they had each other.

Today we celebrate Easter more like they did, amongst our households, or scattered in little groups outdoors at dawn. But we remember the testimony passed down for millenia, that Christ is risen. And we trust in our living, life-giving God's presence among us to help us greet this dawn, this day, this moment - with faith, hope, and love.

Let us pray.

PRAYER

God of new beginnings and new morning light, be with us this morning. Help us to seek and find you in this WIDE open space. Help us to lean in for your voice, as we listen to the voices of one another. And guide us into your historical story of resurrection, as well as into the active resurrection story that is within us. You, making all things new, repairing, healing, and mending parts of us that can only be touched by your love.

Amen.

RESERVOIR CHURCH

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FIRST READING | MATTHEW 27:57-65

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. 62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."

66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

NAME ONE OR TWO SORROWS THAT HAVE FELT TOMB-LIKE FOR YOU THIS PAST YEAR.

*Invite folks to respond silently or out loud.
Hold space and silence.*

Leader sets up the collective response,
"You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God who holds our sorrows,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God who breaks through tombs,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

YOU ARE RISEN

SECOND READING | MATTHEW 28:1, JOHN 20:11-16

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!", teacher.

THIS MORNING AS YOU TURN TO JESUS, WHAT NAME DO YOU HAVE FOR JESUS?

*Invite folks to respond silently or out loud.
Hold space and silence.*

Leader sets up the collective response,
"You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God who holds our sorrows,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God who breaks through tombs,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

THIRD READING | JOHN 20:19-22

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

At this new dawn, may we be called to new life as we take in the resurrected breath of Jesus. Let us Inhale, "Holy" and Exhale, "Spirit." A reminder of God's presence with us and in us.

INHALE: HOLY EXHALE: SPIRIT

Repeat as many times as you would like

Leader sets up the collective response,
"You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God of our breath,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

LEADER: "Oh God of peace,"
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: "You are risen!"

NEW

LIFE

NEW

BREATH

DECLARATION & RESPONSE

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LEADER

Today we leave this sunrise service reminded that we are in an ever-evolving story with God. A story that sends us tumbling through the sorrows, the joys, the fears and the surprises of life.

And we are also reminded by this Easter story that we are not alone.

We are gathered here, [NAME FOLKS IN YOUR GROUP] together today, declaring that:

LEADER: HE IS RISEN!

COMMUNITY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We are also reminded in this Easter story that LIFE cannot ultimately be conquered by death, because:

LEADER: HE IS RISEN!

COMMUNITY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

And we are reminded that even when hate prowls in every corner, LOVE will prevail, because:

LEADER: HE IS RISEN!

COMMUNITY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

And we are reminded that when trials abound, PEACE will be multiplied - because:

LEADER: HE IS RISEN!

COMMUNITY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

“And may we remember that when we have reached the end of our resources, that Our God’s full giving has only begun”*, because:

LEADER: HE IS RISEN!

COMMUNITY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

**ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA**