

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tom Irving

Matthew 28: 1-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"He is Going Ahead of You"

HYMN # 234

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

CLOSING WORDS**BENEDICTION (Unison)**

**May the loving sacrifice of the cross,
 The power of the resurrection,
 And the presence of the Living Lord,
 Be with you always.
 And the blessing of the Eternal God,
 Creator and Sustainer,
 Risen Lord and Savior,
 Giver of holiness and love,
 Be upon you and remain with you,
 Now and forevermore.
 Amen**

POSTLUDE"Hallelujah" Chorus from *Messiah* – George Frideric Handel

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your generous contributions to the stewardship of our church.

Opening Hymn no. 216

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our Head, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Prayer Response

Hymn no. 303

“In This Time”

In this time of quiet reverence, God fill us now with everlasting peace and may each and ev’ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

Closing Hymn no. 234

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne. Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.