

# *Easter Sunrise Service*

Whitefish United Methodist Church

April 24, 2011

## *Rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord!*



### **GREETINGS**

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the church to pray and to watch for the dawning of his triumph and resurrection. We join with the whole company of God's people in heaven and on earth in recalling and celebrating his victory over death, God's kingdom within us, and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and darkness to everlasting light.

**Hear the Word of God:** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:1, 4-5)

### **OPENING HYMN** "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken, like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

### **LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

Leader: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**People: Christ is our Light!**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" No. 302

- Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*
- 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!*
- Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!*

### **EASTER LITANY**

Leader: *Christ our Savior is risen from the dead! Alleluia!*

**People: Sing praises to God, give thanks to God's holy name!**

Leader: *Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.*

**People: You turn our weeping into dancing, God; you take away the despair of mourning and clothe us with hope and promise.**

**All: May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, O God, Forever!**

**FIRST READING:** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**SPECIAL MUSIC** – Bob Phelps



## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

*O God, in the chill and newness of this day, help us return to you – just as the women returned to Jesus that first Easter morning. Give us the strength to face even the deepest deaths with hope and faithfulness. Then open our hearts to hear you call us into new life in the risen Jesus. Transform us into Easter people full of love, celebration, and spirit. For we thank you that you have answered us and become our salvation from sin and death and the paralysis of fear. We pray in the name of the Risen One, who teaches us to pray saying...*

## OUR 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

## HYMN: “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” No. 304

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choicest; heavenly, music let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING

**GOSPEL READING:** John 20:1-8

**MEDITATION:** “Merry Easter”

**CLOSING SONG** “He Lives” No. 310

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world to-day; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near.

**Refrain:** He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives to-day! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care, and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair. I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast; the day of his appearing will come at last. *Repeat Refrain.*

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind. *Repeat Refrain.*

## BENEDICTION

Gather gladness from the skies; Take a lesson from the ground; Mingle praises, prayer, and song, Singing to the Trinity. Henceforth let your souls always make each morn an Easter Day.

*Welcome to Whitefish United Methodist Church. You are invited to learn more about how we seek to grow in God's love with each other and the community. We offer opportunities for all ages to explore how God is at work in us. Want to learn more? Call the church office at 862-3418. We're glad you're here!*

*Deborah Schmidt, Pastor*



Deborah Schmidt, Pastor  
Dawn Hashley, Music Coordinator  
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