

The Church of the Holy City, Easter Sunday 2020

Responsive Reading:

Leader: Jesus began to teach them: “The Son of Man will be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”

All: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, in whom I take refuge. The cords of death encompassed me; in my distress I called upon the Lord, to my God I cried for help.

Leader: Jesus said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” He was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this.

All: We are the temple of the Living God. As God has said, “I will live with them, and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Leader: Jesus said, “There is no greater love, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again.”

All: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me, your rod and your staff shall comfort me.

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and I am Life; those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die.

All: Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys of death and death’s domain. Because I live, you will also live.

(In unison, with strength)

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Affirmation of Worship (in unison):

We worship the one God, who is fully revealed in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the risen Christ, the complete being of God dwells: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To save us from evil, and all that would make us less than human, God took on our humanity. Jesus endured every temptation, never choosing evil. In his life-long process to re-establish human freedom, Christ glorified his humanity by uniting it with the Divine. In surrendering to death, Christ defeated the power of hell, and its hold upon the world was destroyed. Humanity was released from bondage. Christ rose from the tomb; and is now present to save all people, everywhere, whose lives affirm the best of love and truth they know. For us, this is love the Lord, all others, the whole earth, and ourselves, even as Jesus loves us.