



Seward United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and Beyond.

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Welcome and Announcements

Special Music (9:30 only)

Halle, Hale, Halle

Chancel Choir

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen indeed!!

L: With rejoicing, let us worship today!

P: With heart, and soul, and voice, we will worship with joy today.

Hymn

Now the Green Blade Riseth

UMH 311, v. 1 – 3

¹Now the green blade riseth,
From the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth
Many days has lain;
Love lives again
That with the dead has been: (R)

²In the grave they laid him,
Love who had been slain,
thinking that he never
would awake again,
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen: (R)

Refrain

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

³Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days
in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead
my risen Lord is seen: (R)

Common Prayer (in unison)

Love of Jesus, fill us,
Joy of Jesus, surprise us,
Peace of Jesus, flood us,
Light of Jesus, transform us,
Touch of Jesus, warm us,
Strength of Jesus, encourage us,
O Savior, forgive us,
And in your risen life guide us
As we love you and your world.

Amen.

(From "600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World" p. 146)

Celebration of Baptism – Joey Venekamp (9:30 only)

Hymn (9:30 only) God Claims You TFWS 2249

(R) Joey, Joey God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

1. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.
2. We your family love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 28: 1-10

²⁸ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of God, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.'" ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Special Music Was It a Morning Like This? Kelli Fleek & Megan Forbes

Sermon "Earth Rejoices" Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn Christ Is Risen UMH 307, v. 1

1 Christ is risen!
Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen!
Hush in wonder;
all creation is amazed.
In the desert
all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of
grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering
Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Thank you, God, for the greatest of all gifts, the saving action of Jesus Christ in human history. Your gift inspires our generous response. We bring our offerings and renewed commitment. Help us to be faithful disciples. Amen.

(from: "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler, p. 52)

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302, v. 1 - 4

1. 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!

2. 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!

3. 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!

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!

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell