il 8, 2021



# Worship at Home

Encourage: it means to inspire courage. Jesus eats with sinners to inspire them. This is why we call it Holy Communion.

Come, you sinners and sing a new song. Come, all who seek justice for your wounds to the Wounded Healer.

## Prelude

Repentance is the prelude to worship. Jesus tells us the way of repentance. "Deny self." Deny self the power of sin, the power of the Law of Moses, the power of others who judge, condemn, and kill.

## Lighting the Candles

Prayer is like shinning a bright light on darkness. This is why God said, "Let there be LIGHT." The darkness of sin and death is in our hearts, souls, and minds. This is why Jesus says, "You are the Light of the World."

## Special Music

When the Light of God's Love shines in the darkness of sin and death people sing a new song. "Blessed is the one who comes in

the name of the Lord. Hosanna. Hosanna in the Highest." You are the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord.

### Welcome

Jesus teaches the way of the Blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord. "Take up your cross."



When will a remnant of the Church rise up as Easter People known for being Wounded Healers like Christ Jesus? Robert

## Morning Prayers

Confession means we simply name what separates us from God's mercy, grace, and love. For what do you or your neighbors judge, reject, and condemn you. This is the cross Jesus calls you to take up.

Confession leads to Mercy. While suffering our Sin Jesus says, "Father forgive them..." We take up our crosses to receive His mercy and follow Him.

This is why Jesus each us to pray, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

# Reading of Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-2

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, **2** make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

#### **Instrumental Meditation**

# The Message

Easter People look at the world through Christ. This means we are "In Christ" seeing one another as He sees us.

When I look at the world I am carried in various directions. Do you mourn what our neighbors do to one another? Are you tempted to do unto others what they have done to you, your family, your political identity, your nation? Do you find yourself thinking, saying, and feeling "why bother." Like Job are you resigned to apathy.

Jesus teaches that those who mourn are blessed. Those who mourn search the darkness of the heart, soul, and mind. Those who mourn ask, seek, and knock. They are drawn to the Light God speaks into our darkness.

Mourning is the narrow gate that opens to receive God's comfort. The comfort herein is not what one first expects to find. The comfort comes in experiencing Jesus Easter Message. "Look, I Am with you always."

Easter People are not exempt from getting even or apathy. James Bryan Smith shines light into the darkness of the human desire for "an eye for and eye", retribution, and sitting in "sackcloth and ashes", apathy. In his book, Embracing the Love of God, Smith says, "Forgiving is difficult because it seems unjust...Forgiveness is not about justice, it is about healing." Page 95

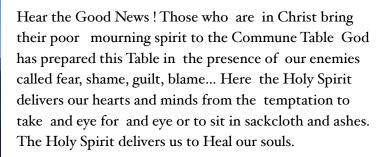
Henri Nouwen describes Easter People as Wounded Healers. Our Sins wounded and killed Jesus. Jesus is both the wounded and the Healer. Human justice seeks retribution through Laws, rules, ethics, and morals. Easter People are Wounded Healers. Easter People deny their desire for "an eye for and eye" or to sit clothed in sackcloth and ashes. Easter People see these things as the very wounds of Christ they carry in their hearts, souls, and minds.

Jesus was wounded for our trespasses. By His stripes we are healed. Such humble mercy encourages Easter People. Jesus inspires us to have the courage to be the sinner with whom the Son of God eats and drinks. Such a relationship defines what God means when saying, "Just as I am Holy you shall be holy."

Holy means we are sent apart for a purpose. A Saint is a sinner inspired with courage to sit at the table and commute with God.

The Bread we break celebrates Jesus' suffering. The Cup we

drink is full of mercy. The Bread we break fulfills the Old Testament Covenants. The Cup we drink is the New Covenant.



This is what Henri means by being a Wounded Healer. Jesus bore our sinful wounds to deliver us and heal our

soul. When will a remnant of the Church rise up as Easter People known for being Wounded Healers like Christ Jesus?

The healed Soul is consoled to Love. The Soul leads the wounded heart and troubled mind to worship in Peace, Joy, and Patience. Yes, the very fruit of the Spirit of God's Love.

Let us give thanks for our wounds. Let us count every trouble as joy. Easter People rise. Rise up and Look! I Am is with us always calling sinners to be Wounded Healers who are One in Christ.

Amen

## Soul Examination

A. We are taught that sin is an action. Sin separates us from receiving Jesus Mercy. Sin is a broken relationship! It blinds us from entering God's Grace. Sin therefore is the absence of God's Love which is revealed as patience, kindness, generosity...

- B. Jesus promises to be with us always. Matthew 28:20. Where would God have us look to see Jesus with us at any particular moment?
  - A. Look into the darkness of your heart and mind. Jesus is the Light exposing your sin.
  - B. Look into your suffering of shame, guilt, and blame. Jesus is the Light exposing your sin. He is with you to heal you.
  - C. Look into your fear. The Church fears that if it stops defending the Law of Moses our nation will lead us into lawlessness. The Church fears that if it stops legislating morality we will become a heathen nation. Jesus is the Light exposing all sin. He exposes our sin so we will confess our sins, receive His forgiveness.
  - D. Jesus' forgiveness delivers us into God's Grace to be healed in The Holy Spirit's comforting Love.
  - E. The fruit of the Spirit of God's love in our lives is patience, kindness, and hope in all things.
  - F. To deny self deny the power of the Law. Its power is judgement. Deny the power of sin. Its power is death. Deny the power of institutions, politics, or government to save you and heal you. Do all things remembering Jesus' Promise. He is with you. He desires to live in you. His purpose is for you to reveal His mercy, grace, and love to others.
  - G. Do unto others as Jesus has done unto you>

## Tithes and Offerings

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

# Benediction: Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

## Postlude

Easter people are Wounded Sinners who eat with other sinners to commune in Christ's Healing. Awe, to worship in Spirit and Truth.

Amen.