

## Didache Divine Service

### Session 8

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

#### The Apostles' Creed: The Second Article—The Resurrection and Ascension

- I. Invocation and Prayer
- II. Hymn: 458 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (Stanzas 1-4)
- III. Bible Reading: Jesus Rises from the Dead and Ascends into Heaven—Mark 16:1-20

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. <sup>2</sup>Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. <sup>3</sup>And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" <sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. <sup>5</sup>And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "**Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!** He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going <sup>[a]</sup>before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

<sup>8</sup>So they went out <sup>[b]</sup>quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

<sup>9</sup><sup>[c]</sup>Now when *He* rose early on the first *day* of the week, **He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.** <sup>10</sup>She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. <sup>11</sup>And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

<sup>12</sup>**After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.** <sup>13</sup>And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either.

<sup>14</sup>**Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart,** because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. <sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** <sup>16</sup>**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.** <sup>17</sup>And these signs will follow those who <sup>[d]</sup>believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." <sup>19</sup>So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup>And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

- In the narrative of Jesus' resurrection, we see the curse of the fall reversed because of Jesus' death for us upon the cross. As sin entered the garden of Eden through Adam's rebellion and brought death, the announcement of Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil takes place in a garden and is first announced to Mary Magdalene who had been in bondage to Satan.
- **Sin** (the rejection of God's Word by which we were created) **is the cause of death** (separation from God) and slavery to Satan and evil.
- Satan desired to destroy our relationship with God; the power of the devil is God's own Word that death and condemnation is the just punishment for our rebellion.
- Jesus redeems us from sin, death, and the power of the devil by dying in our place, suffering the punishment that we by our sins deserved (atonement).
- **Jesus' death for us is the cause of the resurrection and new life by the forgiveness of our sins.**

- “Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:6-21)
- “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).
- Jesus’ Ascension to the Father’s right hand is a position of authority over all things for the sake of His Church. By the Gospel of Christ preached in every language, those who believe in Jesus have victory over death and the power of the Serpent.

**IV. The Creed preaches the faith that saves us from our sin: The creed shows us that God loves us and has done everything to save us from sin through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

1. Incarnation
2. Crucifixion
3. Resurrection  
&
- Ascension
4. Judgment

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

**The Explanation to the Second Article from the Catechism —**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ,  
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,  
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary,  
is my Lord,  
who has redeemed me,  
a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sins,  
from death, and from the power of the devil;  
not with gold or silver,  
but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,  
that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom  
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  
This is most certainly true.

- V. Hymn: 458 “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (Stanzas 5-7)
- VI. Liturgy for Holy Communion (Peach handout)
- VII. Hymn to Depart: 488 “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word”