

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Easter Sunday 31 March 2024 Since Jesus died not in His own sins but in ours, which had been laid on Him; and since He rose again out of them to a life that will never die, a wonderful light shines on the minds of all believers: not even one of all their sins remains unatoned for. For if even one of all their sins had remained, then Christ could not have arisen as our Surety and Guarantor of the covenant.

-Caspar Olevianus

# GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

## Easter Procession—from Psalm 24

Pastor: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. For He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Musicians: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

- All: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.
- Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

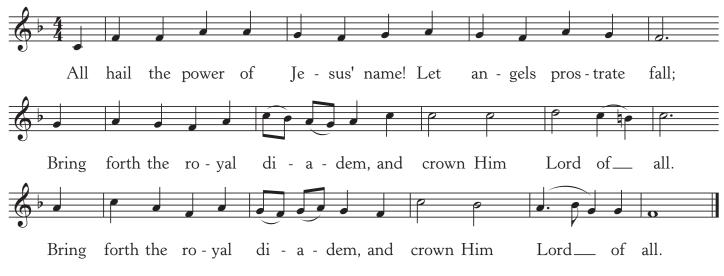
Musicians: Who is this King of glory?

#### All: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

- Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- Musicians: Who is this King of glory?

All: The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!

#### Sung Response—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name, Vs. 1



Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

## Call to Worship—from John 11:25-26; Job 19:25

Pastor:	Christ is risen!
All:	He is risen indeed!
Pastor:	Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Do you believe this?
All:	I know that my Redeemer lives! Christ is risen!

Pastor: He is risen indeed!

## Congregational Hymn—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

		••••		
Christ Je - sus lay	y in death's strong	g bands, for	our of - fens	s - es giv - en;
It was a stran	nge and dread - ful	strife when	life and deat	h con - tend-ed;
So let us kee	ep the fes - ti	- val to	which the Lord	d in - vites us;
6	• • • • •	••••		
• But now at Go	d's right hand He	stands and brir	ngs us life	from Heav-en:
	y re - mained with			was_ end - ed.
Christ is Him - se				and lights us.
		• • •	• •	Þ• • •
There - fore let	us joy - ful be	and sing God's	s prais - es	thank-ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r,	no more it reigns	s, an emp - ty	form a -	lone re-mains;
Now His grace	to us im - parts	e - ter - nal	sun - shine	to our hearts;
2				
		<b>be e</b>		• •
With songs of	al - le -	lu - ia!	Al - le -	lu - ia!
Death's sting is	lost for -	ev - er!	Al - le -	lu - ia!
The night of	sin is	end - ed.	Al - le -	lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN, Medieval melody, arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

# GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

## Congregational Hymn—Lord, When We Sinned And Turned From You



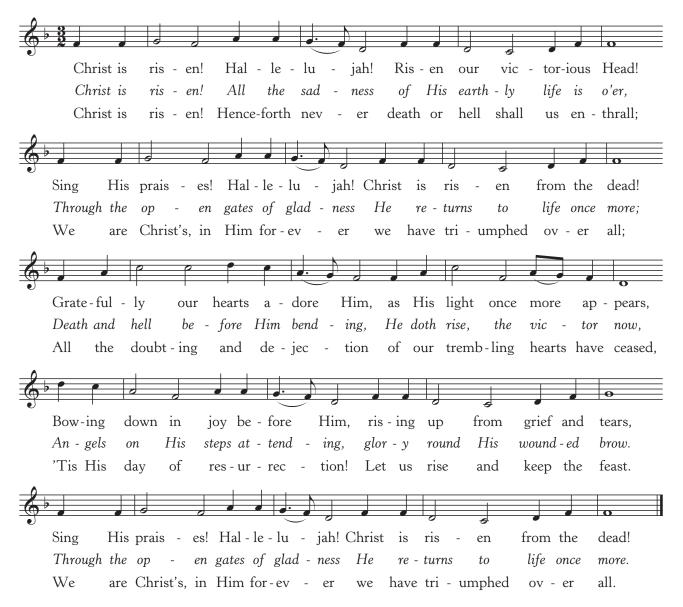
Text: Peter Leach, 2020; Music: Nathan George, 2020.

## Scripture Reading-from John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Romans 8:1, 38-39

- Elder: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live."
- All: For He who raised Christ from the dead will also raise us up by His power.
- Elder: Therefore, neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- All: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. To Him be glory forever.

Elder: Amen.

## Congregational Hymn—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!



CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY), attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

## Reading of the Word—Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Sermon—Looking To Jesus

-Pastor, James Crampton

# GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

## **Confession of Sin**

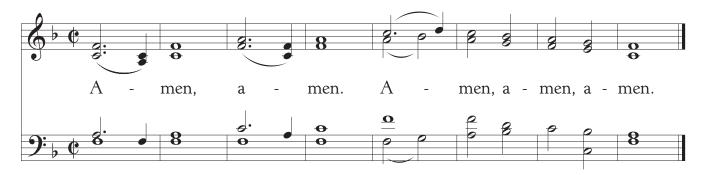
- Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12). The soul who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:20), for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- All: We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- Pastor: There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God (Romans 3:10-11).
- All: All of us have turned aside; together we have become useless (Romans 3:12).
- Pastor: And all those who hate God, love death (Proverbs 8:36).
- All: Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief (Mark 9:24).

## Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is the giver of life (Acts 17:25), the fountain of life (Psalm 36:9), the defender of life (Psalm 27:1), the prince of life (Acts 3:15), and the restorer of life (Ruth 4:15). God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-56). Through death He destroyed the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and delivered all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.



## Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

## HEAVENLY GIFT-EUCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

#### Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God: The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible; The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen*.

#### Sursum Corda

- People: And also with you.
- Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
- People: We lift them up to the Lord.
- Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

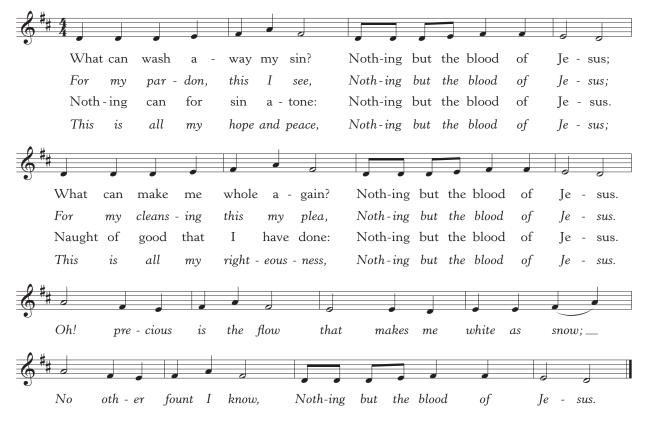


CCLI #2844402 @2009 Greyfriars Press. Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

#### Congregational Hymn—Nothing But The Blood



Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: PLAINFIELD, Robert Lowry, 1876.

#### Congregational Hymn—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH (SHOUT ON), F. C. Wood, The Sacred Harp, 1850; arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

## GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### Congregational Hymn—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today



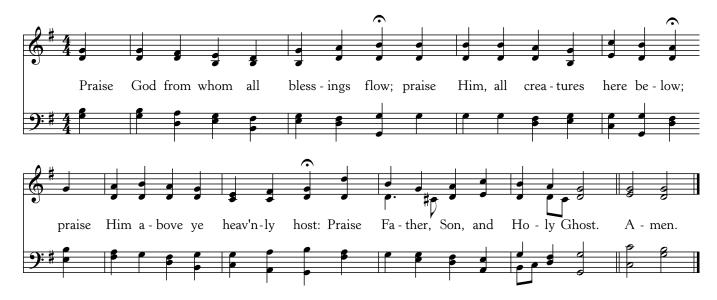
Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, Lyra Davidica, 1708.

# GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

## Benediction—Revelation 7:9-12

- Pastor: I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:
- Musicians: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
- Pastor: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying:
- Musicians: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.
- Pastor: Christ is risen!
- All: He is risen indeed!



## Sung Response—Doxology

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

## Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

**Keystone Verse:** 

Q. What doth the resurrection of Christ profit us?

A. First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, that He might make us partakers of that righteousness which He had purchased for us by His death; secondly, we are also by His power raised up to a new life; and lastly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.

—The Heidelberg Catechism

Key Words: Lay aside, Weight, Sin, Looking, Jesus, Joy, Cross, Throne

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)



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Elders Emeritus Steve Nelson John Scherrer

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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.