



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;



Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.

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 in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es_ giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was_ end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;




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



Lord, when we sinned and turned from You, a shroud You laid on us. _____
And now our days are like the grass; the flow - er flour - ish - es; _____
So teach me, Fa - ther God, to know, my life is but a breath. _____
His death I live, His life my goal, mine is His vic - to - ry. _____




Back to the ground from which we're formed, this
The wind blows once and it is gone, its
But since my Lord has gone a - head, may
Good Spir - it, lead me in His way, un -




Vs. 1 Vss. 2-4, to Refrain

dust re - turns to dust.
mem - 'ry per - ish - es. _____
I not fear my death. _____
til His face I see! _____

Refrain



But one man o - ver - came the grave, He plun - dered Sa - tan's store. _____



Christ holds the keys of death and hell, He lives for - ev - er - more!

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!



Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor-ious Head!
Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of His earth - ly life is o'er,
Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;



Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more;
We are Christ's, in Him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all;



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,
Death and hell be - fore Him bend - ing, He doth rise, the vic - tor now,
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our tremb - ling hearts have ceased,



Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris - ing up from grief and tears,
An - gels on His steps at - tend - ing, glor - y round His wound - ed brow.
'Tis His day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more.
We are Christ's, in Him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all.

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, ²looking 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



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,



And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:



Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press; Text: Revelation 1:5-6;
Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

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

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCCHARISTO

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

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:

WOMEN



MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.
san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

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



What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
For my par - don, this I see, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
Noth-ing can for sin a - tone: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my hope and peace, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;



What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my cleans - ing this my plea, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right - eous - ness, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.



Oh! pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow; —



No oth - er fount I know, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

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

Congregational Hymn—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



I___ know that my re - deem - er lives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to bless me___ with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to crush the fiends of hell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to plead my___ cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives and doth with - in me dwell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



Shout___ on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

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



Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Soar we now where Christ hath led, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids His rise, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Once He died our souls to save, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and Earth, re - ply, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Christ hath o - pened par - a - dise, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

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

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise Him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

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

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