



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come— this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: This is the good news— the grave is empty;
Christ is risen.

People: *Hallelujah!*

Leader: This is the good news— the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

People: *Hallelujah!*

Leader: This is the good news— once we were no people;
now we are God's people.

People: *Hallelujah!*

Leader: Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

People: *Hallelujah!*

Opening Hymn | Worship Christ the Risen King

Words by Jack W. Hayford 1986, music by Henry T. Smart, 1867

*Rise O Church and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices, resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Risen King!*

*See the tomb where death had laid Him, empty now its mouth declares.
Death and I could not contain Him, for the throne of life He shares.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Risen King!*

*Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r,
All hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand His hour.
He has conquered, He has conquered, Christ the Lord the Risen King!*

*Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer,
But the truth proclaims a wonder, thoughtful hearts receive with cheer:
He is risen, He is risen, now receive the Risen King!*

—Continued—

*We acclaim Your life O Jesus, now we sing Your victory.
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but Your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ the Risen King!*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Worship | Crown Him with Many Crowns

Words by Matthew Bridges, 1851; music by George J. Elvey, 1868

*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife, for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *If, at times, we deny you: God, forgive.*

When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found: God, forgive.

When we wash our hands of responsibility: God, forgive.

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver: God, forgive.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing: God, forgive.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed.

*Tender God, raise us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,
the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies
also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—Romans 8.9-11

New Testament Reading | John 20.19-31

[19] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." [20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

[24] Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

[26] Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." [27] Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." [28] Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" [29] Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

[30] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn of Worship | In Christ Alone

Words and music by Keith and Krystin Getty, 2001

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! Who took on flesh, fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

Psalm | Psalm 16

Leader: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: *I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;*

Leader: *I have no good apart from you."*

People: *As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,*

Leader: *In whom is all my delight.*

People: *The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;*

Leader: *Their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out*

People: *Or take their names on my lips.*

Leader: *The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;*

People: *You hold my lot.*

Leader: *The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;*

People: *Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

Leader: *I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;*

People: *In the night also my heart instructs me.*

Leader: *I have set the LORD always before me;*

People: *Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

Leader: *Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;*

People: *My flesh also dwells secure.*

Leader: *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,*

People: *Or let your holy one see corruption.*

Leader: *You make known to me the path of life;*

People: *In your presence there is fullness of joy;*

Leader: *At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Ministry of the Word | The Blindness Continues

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Matthew 28:11-15

[11] While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. [12] And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers [13] and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' [14] And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." [15] So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

*This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
Christ died for our sins, was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.
Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.*

—based on 1 Corinthians 15.3-7; Colossians 1.15-20

Prayers of the People, Concluded with 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Leader: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

Leader: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

One More Hymn | All Must Be Well

Words by Mary Bowley Peters (1847), words and music by Matthew S. Smith (2007)

*Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well.*

*Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well*

*We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: Go forth in joy to love and serve God in all that you do.

People: *We are sent in the name of the risen Christ.*

Leader: Let us bless our Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia!*

Leader: May the God of peace,
 who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep,
 make us ready to do his will in every good thing,
 through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

—based on Hebrews 13.20-21

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: global and local missions

- Monday
Richey and Keli Goodrich (Sydney, Australia): for Richey's preaching and teaching; for the Spirit to draw to Christ many of the unreached Malay people living in and outside of Australia.
- Tuesday
Robert and Debbie Hale: translation work in French-speaking Africa.
- Wednesday
Nate Hill, John Tyler High School Young Life; Mentoring Alliance (includes The Gospel Village, Rose City Summer Camps, and The Boys and Girls Club).
- Thursday
Rev. Robbie Mills, Pastor of New City Fellowship, a church working among immigrants in East Dallas. Rev. Jahaziel Cantu, Pastor of El Buen Pastor, a Hispanic church plant in North Dallas/Richardson. Rev. Caleb Dunn and Rev. Joshua Geiger, pastors working with Cristo Rey PCA, a Hispanic church in Central/West Dallas.
- Friday
Promise Academy's financial and prayer support; Highway 80 Rescue Mission and their work to build a residential facility here in Tyler; PATH, Crisis Pregnancy Center, other ministries in town.
- Saturday
That there will be great growth in disciples of Christ in our city— growth in number and depth.