



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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: The Lord who calls us to worship today is the same Jesus who refused the temptation to worship the evil one. Rather than receive the glorious kingdoms of this world, he endured the shame of the cross, and today is Lord of lords and King of kings. Now are gathered in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, glory and power. With the saints of all ages we say,

People: *“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”*

—based on Colossians 2.3; Revelation 5.12

Opening Hymn | Were You There

Southern spiritual, music by Clint Wells (2009)

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Sometimes I feel like shouting glory,
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?*

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

—continued—

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Sometimes I feel like shouting glory,
Sometimes I feel like shouting glory!
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Worship | Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words by James Montgomery (1821, alt. S. McCracken), music by Sandra McCracken (2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!*

*He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression and rule in equity. (Chorus)*

*He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.*

*To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight. (Chorus)*

*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.*

*Kings shall fall down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing. (Chorus)*

*The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever, that Name to us is Love. (Chorus)*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where
we are prisoners of ourselves.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real,
Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

New Testament Reading | Acts 2.14a, 36-41

[14] But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

[37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Hymn of Worship | Lesser Loves

Words and Music by Trent Dabbs, Kate York and Isaac Wardell (2015)

*I was a prisoner; You held the key
The door was opened; You welcomed me
Oh, I was guilty of every crime
But you took my place and you did my time*

*How can I thank you, thank you, Lord?
My broken heart, You have restored.
How can I thank you, thank you, Lord?
You give me grace I cannot afford.*

*I was an enemy, but You made me a guest
You spread a table in the wilderness
Beside the waters, You filled my cup
O how I have settled for lesser loves*

*I was an orphan, but You called me “child”
I was a stranger; I was lost and defiled,
Redemption found me from up above
O how I had settled for lesser loves.*

Psalm | Psalm 116.1-3, 10-17

Leader: I love the LORD, because he has heard

People: *My voice and my pleas for mercy.*

Leader: Because he inclined his ear to me,

People: *Therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

Leader: The snares of death encompassed me;

People: *The pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;*

Leader: I suffered distress and anguish.

People: *I believed, even when I spoke:*

Leader: "I am greatly afflicted";

People: *I said in my alarm,*

Leader: "All mankind are liars."

People: *What shall I render to the LORD*

Leader: For all his benefits to me?

People: *I will lift up the cup of salvation*

Leader: And call on the name of the LORD,

People: *I will pay my vows to the LORD*

Leader: In the presence of all his people.

People: *Precious in the sight of the LORD*

Leader: Is the death of his saints.

People: *O LORD, I am your servant;*

Leader: I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.

People: *You have loosed my bonds.*

Leader: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

People: *And call on the name of the LORD.*

Ministry of the Word | Exalted!

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Matthew 28.16–20

[16] Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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 | Praise the Savior, Now and Ever

Words by Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus (560), translated by Johan Olaf Wallin

*Praise the Saviour now and ever; Praise him all beneath the skies;
Prostrate lying, suffering, dying, on the cross, a sacrifice.
Victory gaining, life obtaining, now in glory he doth rise.*

*Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth; he is all our righteousness;
He, our Saviour, has for ever, set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit, light and peace and happiness.*

*Sin's bonds severed; we're delivered; Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger; hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.*

*For his favor, praise for ever, unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Saviour, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit, He doth us salvation bring.*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: Grace to you and peace

from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

—Revelation 1.4-6

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: needs of our city.

- Monday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in our schools.
- Tuesday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in city, state, and local government, and justice systems.
- Wednesday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in local law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and hospitals.
- Thursday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically amongst our immigrant, economically disadvantaged, and minority populations. See Deuteronomy 10.17-19.
- Friday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically for a unity within our churches and between our churches in the cause of Christ.
- Saturday
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically that the gospel would be proclaimed throughout our city's churches.