



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Easter Sunday

April 12, 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: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

People: *To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!*

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Leader: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

People: *Death no longer has dominion over him.*

Leader: For the death that he died, he died to sin once for all,

People: *But the life that he lives, he lives to God.*

Leader: So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin

People: *And alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

—from Romans 6.9-11

Leader: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,

People: *The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Leader: For as by a man came death,

People: *By a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.*

Leader: For as in Adam all die,

People: *So also in Christ all shall be made alive.*

—from I Corinthians 15.20-22

Opening Hymn | Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

*Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids his rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

*Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of Worship | The Lamb has Overcome

Words and music by Luke Morton, 2011

*The Lamb has overcome, the Lamb has overcome,
The battle's done and the victory is won, For the Lamb has overcome!*

*No grave could hold him down, no grave could hold him down,
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound, No grave could hold him down.*

*At God's right hand is he, at God's right hand is he,
Our Perfect Plea as he lives to intercede, At God's right hand is he.*

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Glory be unto his name! (2x)*

*The table now is spread, the table now is spread,
This wine and bread, broken body and blood shed, The table now is spread.*

*The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near,
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear, The day is drawing near.*

*The Lamb has overcome, the Lamb has overcome,
The battle's done and the victory is won, For the Lamb has overcome!*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."
"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

— I Corinthians 15.54-57

Old Testament Reading | Jeremiah 31.1-6

[1] "At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."

[2] Thus says the LORD:

"The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,

[3] the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

[4] Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines
and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

[5] Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant
and shall enjoy the fruit.

[6] For there shall be a day when watchmen will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:

'Arise, and let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.'"

Hymn of Worship | Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

By Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker, 2013

*Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.*

Psalm | Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: *For his steadfast love endures forever!*

Leader: Let Israel say,

People: *"His steadfast love endures forever."*

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my song;

People: *He has become my salvation.*

Leader: Glad songs of salvation

People: *Are in the tents of the righteous:*

Leader: *"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,*

People: *The right hand of the LORD exalts,*

Leader: *The right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"*

People: *I shall not die, but I shall live,*

Leader: And recount the deeds of the LORD.

People: *The LORD has disciplined me severely,*

Leader: But he has not given me over to death.

People: *Open to me the gates of righteousness,*

Leader: That I may enter through them

People: *And give thanks to the LORD.*

Leader: This is the gate of the LORD;

People: *The righteous shall enter through it.*

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me

People: *And have become my salvation.*

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected

People: *Has become the cornerstone.*

Leader: This is the LORD's doing;

People: *It is marvelous in our eyes.*

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Ministry of the Word | Resurrection!

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Matthew 28.1-10

[1] Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. [2] And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. [3] His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. [4] And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. [5] But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. [6] He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. [7] Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." [8] So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. [9] And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. [10] Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

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 | We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken, 2015

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more!*

*We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.*

*In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.*

*Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.

May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.

May you pass with Christ from death to life.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.

May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing
so that you may abound in hope.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—

bless you now and forever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: our church and mission

- Monday
That God would prepare us to be his ambassadors, welcoming to those who visit, and reaching out to friends and neighbors and those in need; for healthy marriages and families.
- Tuesday
For authentic community, healthy small groups, deep friendships.
- Wednesday
That we would grow in prayer; for God to bless our corporate worship.
- Thursday
Physical and material needs of the body; that we would see opportunities to love and serve the destitute, ill, imprisoned, orphaned, and widowed.
- Friday
Passion for ministry; Sabbath rest; discernment.
- Saturday
Perspective, faith, contentment.