



**CHRIST
CENTRAL
CHURCH**



GOOD MORNING!

Historically, the church has not celebrated Easter as simply one day, but as an entire fifty day season called “Eastertide.” This season starts on Easter Sunday and extends until Pentecost Sunday seven weeks later.

Eastertide is marked by two main events: first and foremost the resurrection of Jesus and then the ascension of Jesus. Even today, in this season of lamenting this pandemic and pain that it’s causing, don’t forget we have reason to rejoice.

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4)

Our Easter story of hope and victory runs contrary to the false stories of our world that would make us believe that there is no hope, that there is nothing more than this life. The secularism and cynicism that are so present in our culture shape us and jade us, robbing us of joy and belief in the miraculous. Eastertide is a season to remember the true story of the Bible: that Jesus was crucified, buried, and on the third day rose again.

Enter into this story this season. Remember our future hope in Jesus and the power we have in Him for today. Let the reality of the resurrection fill you with joy and peace, regardless of your circumstances.

We love you and are praying for you!

Scott, Chris, and John Mark



CALL TO WORSHIP

Near the beginning of every Christ Central worship service, there is a Call to Worship. The Call to Worship isn't a mini sermon or just a random use of words to get people excited. It's a reminder that God has invited us to worship Him.

Use this Call to Worship prayer to ask God to help you worship Him:

Father, we know that you are a good God and that you are sovereignly reigning over all things. We know that you are the God over every nation, tribe, and tongue, and we know that you are drawing people to yourself from all over the world. Forgive us of our selfishness and our longing to control our own lives. Help us to not be people who fear what is going on. Instead, help us be a people who seek your kingdom to come and your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to have our eyes opened to pray for and pursue opportunities to join in your work of reconciling people to yourself. This morning, help us to worship you, joining the voices of our brothers and sisters from around the world.

Read **Psalm 67** aloud and remember that God is to be known and praised and enjoyed by all.

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah ² that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!



HISTORIC CONFESSION

Christians throughout history have written short statements that summarize the gospel and basic Christian beliefs in just a few sentences. One of these statements, written in 1530 is called the Augsburg Confession. Read this portion of this confession aloud, slowly, remembering the good news of our faith.

It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith and righteousness, as Paul says in Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5.

It is also taught among us that such faith should produce good fruits and good works and that we must do all such good works as God has commanded, but we should do them for God's sake and not place our trust in them as thereby to merit favor before God. For we receive forgiveness of sin and righteousness through faith in Christ, as Christ Himself says, "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants'" (Luke 17:10).



SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹ But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Questions for Digging:

The early Christians staked their lives on the belief that with the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's new world had begun. Their reality is also our reality. Biblically, the "last days" describe the interval between the defeat of evil at the cross and the final defeat of evil that we still await. So, biblically, they were living in the "last days" and so are we.

- 1) How does Paul describe the behavior of people in the last days? In what ways do you see these behaviors in people today?
- 2) As we look at this list of behaviors, we should realize that seeds of each of them are likely hidden inside of us as well. What seeds of these behaviors do you see in your own life and thinking?
- 3) In what ways do people (including ourselves) exhibit a faith with nothing more than the appearance of godliness? Why do we sometimes live like this?

Jannes and Jambres, according to Jewish legend, are the names of the two Egyptian magicians in Exodus 7. When Moses was performing God-given signs to convince Pharaoh to set the Israelites free from slavery, these magicians did their best to copy Moses' signs so that Pharaoh wouldn't take him seriously. Paul's point is that when the gospel is going forward in power, there will always be people who oppose it by whatever means and tricks they can.

- 4) What does Paul want Timothy to expect as he seeks to live as a Christian?
- 5) What should we expect as we seek to live as Christians in the last days (the period between Jesus' death/resurrection/ascension and His return)? How should this translate into the way we daily live our lives?
- 6) According to these verses, how is Scripture useful and what is its purpose?
- 7) What particular verses of Scripture have changed you and prepared you to better do what is good and right?
- 8) What changes do you need to make for Scripture to be able to change you in these ways?
- 9) How do you need to grow in your ability to rightly handle Scripture?

- 10) In vs. 20-26 Paul uses the picture of vessels in a house with the promise that those who purify themselves from dishonorable things will become vessels of honor. How does Paul instruct Timothy to purify himself?
- 11) Purifying yourself is a way to grow in holiness. How could you put these instructions into practice in order to grow in holiness?
- 12) Review these vs. and ask yourself, how could I grow as a servant of Jesus?

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) What in this chapter encouraged you?
- 2) What in this chapter confused you?
- 3) What did this chapter teach you about God or the gospel?
- 4) Did you see anything in this chapter that you plan to put into practice this week?



PRAYER

We believe in the power of prayer because we believe in the power of God. God in His wisdom has called His people to pray and when we pray in humility and expectation, God moves. Therefore, spend time praying this morning.

- 1) Thank God for His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Spirit to help us to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus through reading Scripture and also to help us seek His power that is already at work around us.
- 2) Pray that the church would live wisely and faithfully during “the last days.” Ask God to empower His people to live holy and missional lives, even in “times of difficulty.”
- 3) Pray for missionaries and churches in areas with little to no Gospel influence. Ask God to strengthen these Christians, enabling them to endure suffering, and to continue to share their faith boldly.



B E N E D I C T I O N

End by reading aloud this benediction from 1 Timothy 1:17:

*¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.*



STAY CONNECTED

This certainly is a unique moment in our world. But Jesus is still building His church and He is going to remain faithful to us in the midst of the uncertainty. This we know: that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). So, for now, here's a couple of things you can do to stay connected:

- 1) If you're not already, please subscribe to our weekly email so that you can receive updates and information from Christ Central Church. If you'd like to be added to this list, email [Scott](#) or [Chris](#).
- 2) Follow us on Facebook ([@christcentralokc](#)), Instagram ([christcentralokc](#)), or visit our website ([christcentralokc.com](#)). We will do our best to post at these places to keep you informed of changes and happenings.
- 3) Practice hospitality. Now is a time to demonstrate the hospitality of God to those around us. Here are a couple of ways you can do this:
 - Check in on your neighbors—run errands for them if they can't get out.
 - Reach out to members of your Missional Community to see how you can meet needs and pray for one another.
- 4) Continue to give. You can give online at [christcentralokc.com](#). Physical giving can be sent to:

Christ Central Church
2715 NW 50th St.
Oklahoma City, OK. 73112

**If you have any needs or begin to feel sick—please do not hesitate to call Scott at 405-229-9053 or Chris at 580-309-0883. We are committed to serving you, no matter what.*

We will keep you posted about plans for future Sunday gatherings. Thank you for your patience and understanding and let's continue to make much of Jesus!