

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 12, 2020

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that 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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 24 (p. 791 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

A PSALM OF DAVID.

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.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

**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.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God his Savior.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 274

Thine Be the Glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love: bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we praise you for the loving kindness you have shown us in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for our many sins. We are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of sin, but also the assurance of forgiveness. We thank you that our sins will not be counted against us, because they all have been laid upon Christ, our risen and ascended King.

All: All praise to you, O God, for such wondrous grace! We are loved with an everlasting love! Grant that we, by your Spirit, may live daily unto you and may seek to glorify you in thought, word, and deed. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Psalm 16

Congregational Response

Hymn 286

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

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!

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! Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 22. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Q. 23. *What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading

Acts 2:22-47

Congregational Response

In Christ Alone

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, fullness 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 ev'ry 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 pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home—here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Romans 5:12-21)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Christ Is Risen”
Luke 24:1-12

1. The Tomb Was Empty Because Jesus Was Raised from the Dead

Luke 1:1-4; 24:1-3
1 Corinthians 15:4

2. Jesus’ Followers Did Not Expect Him to Be Raised

Luke 23:50-56; 24:4-8, 12; 9:21-22

3. Jesus’ Resurrection Happened According to God’s Plan

Isaiah 53:10-12
Psalm 16:10

Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 45: How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us?

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

Third, Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 277

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

“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! Amen.

Benediction

Congregational Benediction Response

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Christ is risen! What good news! The grave was not victorious over our Lord because the Triune God raised him in glory! Through his mediatorial work on our behalf, his rising from the dead, and his ascension, Christ showed himself to be victorious over Satan, sin, and death. We join with all believers in joyfully saying, "Death is swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor. 15:54, 57). Philip Ryken writes:

The reason God raised Jesus from the dead was to show that he had conquered death once and for all. It was not enough for Jesus to die for the sins of his people. If he had been crucified, dead, and buried, then death would have had the last word. We could have forgiveness for our sins, but we would have it without the hope of eternal life. Jesus needed to be raised from the dead to win the victory over death. And his resurrection is proof that everyone who believes in him will also be raised from the dead.

1. Read Luke 24:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-23. Why does the New Testament emphasize that Christ was raised from the dead? How would you explain the importance of Christ's bodily resurrection to a person who believes that it is not a critical doctrine?
2. Why is it significant that the women were the first to discover the empty tomb according to Luke 24:3?
3. Read Luke 24:36-53. Why was Christ's resurrection such a surprise to his disciples? What did it take for them to believe?
4. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us? Consider and discuss the three benefits outlined in Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 45, and use the corresponding Scripture references to develop your answers:

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death [Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5].

Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life [Romans 6:5-11; Ephesians 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4].

Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection [Romans 8:11; Philippians 3:20-21].

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, April 13

Scripture: Joshua 7:16 - 9:2; Luke 16:1-18; Psalm 82:1-8; Proverbs 13:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 31

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, April 14

Scripture: Joshua 9:3 - 10:43; Luke 16:19 - 17:10; Psalm 83:1-18; Proverbs 13:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 73

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, April 15

Scripture: Joshua 11:1 - 12:24; Luke 17:11-37; Psalm 84:1-12; Proverbs 13:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 74

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Tanzania and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, April 16

Scripture: Joshua 13:1 - 14:15; Luke 18:1-17; Psalm 85:1-13; Proverbs 13:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 75

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, April 17

Scripture: Joshua 15:1-63; Luke 18:18-43; Psalm 86:1-17; Proverbs 13:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 76

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, April 18

Scripture: Joshua 16:1 - 18:28; Luke 19:1-27; Psalm 87:1-7; Proverbs 13:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 77

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, April 19

Scripture: Joshua 19:1 - 20:9; Luke 19:28-48; Psalm 88:1-18; Proverbs 13:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 78

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand

dahlfred@gmail.com

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

ebyuganda@gmail.com