

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 21, 2019

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 124 (p. 831)

## Hymn of Preparation\*

“Thine Be the Glory” Hymn 274

## 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.

\* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

# ADORATION AND PRAISE

## First Reading\*

Psalm 16

## Congregational Response

“Worship Christ, the Risen King!” Hymn 286

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 16.** *Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?*

**A.** The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his descendants, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

**Q. 17.** *Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?*

**A.** The Fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

**Q. 18.** *What is the sinfulness of that estate into which man fell?*

**A.** The sinfulness of that estate into which man fell consists of: the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions that proceed from it.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

## Tithes and Offerings

## Doxology\*

Hymn 732

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\*

John 20

Congregational Response

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” Hymn 277

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 107:1-3)

Sermon

“It Was Impossible for Jesus to Be Held By Death”  
Acts 2:22-36

Pastor Ben Muresan

## GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

“I’ve Found a Friend, O Such a Friend!” Hymn 517

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

In Jesus’ resurrection, God delivered his Son from the power and curse of death. On the cross, Jesus truly died, but he did not remain in that condition—he was raised in glory and declared to be “the Son of God with power” (Romans 1:4). Jesus’ death and his resurrection were part of God’s plan from all eternity. He made a promise to Adam that he would send a person to crush Satan’s head (Genesis 3:15). As redemptive history unfolded, God revealed more details about the identity and characteristics of this person, namely that he would die in the process of redeeming his people. But he would not stay dead; his body would not see corruption (Psalm 16:10).

Thomas Boston (1676-1732) movingly said that in the resurrection of Jesus,

God exercised a power over himself and quenched the flames of his own wrath that was hotter than millions of Nebuchadnezzar’s furnaces.... How admirable was it that Christ should be raised from under the curse of the law, and the infinite weight of our sins, and brought forth with success and glory after his sharp encounter with the powers of hell! In this the power of God was gloriously manifested.... If he had remained in the grave, it had been reasonable to believe him only an ordinary person, and that his death had been the just punishment of his presumption in calling himself the Son of God.

1. For review, read Matthew 21:1-11. What was the significance of Jesus’ triumphal entry? What details did he plan and why? What did he want the crowd to conclude about his identity?
2. Read Acts 2:22. What “mighty works and wonders and signs” did God do through Jesus during his earthly ministry? Which one of Jesus’ miracles do you find most fascinating and encouraging?
3. Read Acts 2:23. What is the tension in this verse? What is the relationship between God’s sovereignty and man’s free will? Thinking about the following quote from Derek Thomas might help you formulate your answer: “In citing Calvary in this way, Peter sensed a divine hand at work in the universe that even the sinful machinations of the ungodly cannot thwart. Nothing can ultimately undo the mighty purposes of God.”
4. Read Acts 2:24. Why was it possible for Jesus to die? According to Romans 3:21-26, why was it necessary for him to die?
5. Why was it impossible for him to be held by death according to Acts 2:25-32?
6. According to 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, how does our union with Christ ensure that we will also be raised from the dead?
7. In preparation for next week, read Luke 22:14-23. Why do you think Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper during the Passover celebration? How would you explain the importance of the Lord’s Supper to a Christian who was somewhat indifferent about it?

