

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day
October 24, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Thanks to God for My Redeemer
By Johannes A. Hultman

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-5

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 277 (vs 1-4)**

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!

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Christ Is Risen

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross,
And run to him who showed great love
And bled for us,
Freely you've bled for us.

(Chorus)

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with him again
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven's will;
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold you down.
In strength you reign,
Forever let your church proclaim. *(Chorus)*

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
The glory of God has defeated the night.
Singing: O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
Our God is not dead he's alive, he's alive!

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with him again
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave. *(Repeat)*

The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral 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.

Offertory: Chancel Choir

Creation Sings the Father's Song

By Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

***Doxology**

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.

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 4:18-25 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Resurrection Hope

Pastor Jeff Birch

¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

This morning, we are concluding the first part (chapters 1-4) of our study of the book of Romans. Paul has been laying out for the church at Rome an exposition of the gospel, highlighting the theme of the righteousness of God. As Romans 1:17 states, "In (the gospel) it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith." The gospel is a manifestation of the righteousness of God for sinners.

In chapter 4 the subject has been the faith of Abraham. Abraham's faith was not faith in faith, or the strength of faith, but the nature of his faith was to look away from himself in order to embrace the promise of God. And so, here in vv.18-25 Paul speaks of Abraham's faith and hope. Faith and hope in the promise of God. Verse 25 provides a beautiful summary of the story of God, the story of Jesus' coming and work.

We will be focusing, laser-like this morning on verse 25 and the wonderful summary statement it contains of the purpose of Jesus' life and redemptive work. In this promise, we see that our hope is a resurrection hope. In some ways, this verse provides a summary of all that Paul has been expositing in this first section of this letter.

We will explore this verse this morning from two perspectives.

I. The Purpose of His Death

II. The Purpose of His Resurrection

Our future is so bright. And you can get in on it. Our future is a resurrection future. May our hearts be gripped by the hope of God's new world, new heavens and a new earth, guaranteed by Christ's resurrection.

Reflection

"What we say about death and resurrection gives shape and color to everything else. If we are not careful, we will offer merely a "hope" that is no longer a surprise, no longer able to transform lives and communities in the present, no longer generated by the resurrection of Jesus himself and looking forward to the promised new heavens and new earth." (N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope)

***Hymn 521**

Lead On, O King Eternal
Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come,
Hence forth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro' days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong;
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with sword's loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums,
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
We follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us;
We journey in its light.
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.

***The Benediction**

Postlude

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