

EASTER 2021

OUR
CRUCIFIED KING
AND
RISEN LORD

IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



CHRISTCOMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

Easter 2021:

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and Risen Lord

in the Gospel of Luke

Introduction

This Easter season we continue to labor beneath the shadow of death in ways unlike what most of us have previously experienced. The last time our whole church family gathered in person for a corporate worship service was March 8th, 2020. We now begin our Easter 2021 series almost exactly one year later, but we continue to meet only in part.

During our Advent series, we considered Matthew’s account of God sending His Son into a weary world full of weary people. We rejoiced in the arrival of the King! But our hearts often cool off following Advent. We slowly forget the joy of Christmas long before we consider the hope of Easter. Under ‘normal circumstances,’ the mundane rhythms of everyday life return, and the joyous carols fade. During this season of tumult, it is even more likely that our hearts have by now forgotten the Christmas joys of Immanuel, our God and King with us.

We must recognize our hearts’ forgetfulness as we enter the Easter season. Whether this is your first, fifth, or fiftieth Easter series, you don’t simply need to rehearse the facts of Jesus’ suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. We can believe these facts but feel uncertain of Jesus’ reign as risen Lord, living as though He were still in the tomb and not on the throne. Why do we forget so quickly?

It might result from the way we are looking at Jesus. C. S. Lewis once distinguished between two types of seeing. There is “looking *at*” something and then there is “looking *along*” something.¹ For example, we can look at a beam of light as it shines into a darkened room. We can also look *along* that beam of light, no longer seeing the beam itself, but seeing everything else in its light.

¹ “Meditation in a Toolshed,” in *Essay Collection & Other Short Pieces*, ed. Lesley Walmsley (London: HarperCollins, 2000), 607.

This dynamic is at work when we consider Christ's suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. We can look *at* these events the way we might look at a great work of art or watch a movie. We can gain much from this for a short while. But, if this is all we do, ordinary life will quickly sweep away our Easter hope until we look at the story again next year. Of course, we cannot look *at* the Easter story every moment of our lives. What we need, then, is for Jesus to help us look *along* these things in our ordinary lives. We need Him to change, not just the object of our vision, but our vision itself. We need to see everything in light of His reign as crucified King and risen Lord.

We will discover that changing His disciples' vision is at the core of Jesus' ministry in Luke's Gospel. As we begin our series, we will find the disciples envisioning only His exaltation as King. Despite Jesus' plain teaching about His suffering and death in **Luke 18:31-34**, the disciples could not fathom the depths of His impending humiliation. King Jesus shouldn't endure humiliation; He deserves exaltation! They were looking at Jesus in real time, but they struggled to see clearly the events unfolding before them. Thus, Jesus opens their eyes to see the truth at the end of Luke's Gospel (**Luke 24:31, 45**). He enables them at last to look at His humiliation and exaltation clearly. They see that the cross needed to precede the crown for Jesus to save them from their sin. They also see that the pattern of humiliation and then exaltation—cross and then crown—will continue for them as well. Having their eyes opened by Jesus set the disciples free to see everything in a different light.

As for us, we don't like suffering and humiliation any more than Jesus' first-century disciples. We also want all crown and no cross. Therefore, we must not look at the Easter story with a hurried spirit! Have we wrestled with what it means to follow King Jesus? He is the King who gave up His divine rights and served His people unto death. He put the cross before the crown. He embraced humiliation and trusted the Father to exalt Him when the time was right. Then He called the disciples to follow suit. He calls us to follow Him down the same path today.

The purpose of this Easter series and devotional is to help us follow our crucified King and risen Lord. We want to look at the humiliation and exaltation of Christ this Easter season so that we can see all of life in light of Christ's reign. We will look together at the **last three chapters of Luke** as they report Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.² In **Luke 24:44** Jesus declares, "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." For this reason, our calls to worship each Sunday will come from some of the **Psalms** that foreshadowed Jesus' humiliation and exaltation. Our weekly congregational response comes from **Philippians 2:1-11**. This passage reminds us of the depths of Christ's humiliation and the heights of His exaltation, while also calling us to follow in our crucified King's humble footsteps. Keeping with **Luke 24:44**, our assurances of pardon will come from the **Prophet Isaiah**. Isaiah's prophecies foretold Christ's humiliation and exaltation while also reminding us of the forgiveness we have in Him. We will then respond to our assurances of pardon with a prayer drawn from **Hebrews 12:1-2 & 2:8**, asking God to help us fix our eyes on King Jesus so that we can remember our forgiveness through His death and our life through His resurrection. Lastly, our benediction will come from **Ephesians 1:17-20**. Paul's prayer will send us out with the assurance that the Father gives us the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of our hearts so we can see the hope we have in Christ in all of life.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries and missional ministries that we support at CCC through Faith Promise. On Saturdays we will ask God to grant our church family eyes that see King Jesus and hearts that burn with joy in light of His reign. On Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, we will pray for the means of grace to bear

² We will also look at **Luke 19:28-48** in our first sermon. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem sets the stage for everything that follows in **Luke 22-24**.

specific fruit in our lives. May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship. May He grant us eyes to see that, even in times such as these, we do not labor beneath the shadow of death. We live under the reign of Jesus Christ, our crucified King and risen Lord!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sermon Schedule

DATE	CALL TO WORSHIP	ASSURANCE OF PARDON	BENEDICTION	SACRAMENT
<i>Sunday 3/7: Luke 19:28-48</i>	Psalm 118:19-29	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	Ephesians 1:17-20	Baptism
<i>Sunday 3/14: Luke 22:1-30</i>	Psalm 23	Isaiah 42:1-9	Ephesians 1:17-20	Bread and Cup
<i>Sunday 3/21: Luke 22:31-65</i>	Psalm 75	Isaiah 51:17, 21-23	Ephesians 1:17-20	
<i>Sunday 3/28: Luke 22:66-23:25</i>	Psalm 27	Isaiah 51:12-16	Ephesians 1:17-20	
<i>Good Friday 4/2: Luke 23:26-56</i>	Psalm 31	Isaiah 53:1-12		
<i>Easter Sunday 4/4: Luke 24:1-35</i>	Psalm 16	Isaiah 52:7-10	Ephesians 1:17-20	Bread and Cup
<i>Sunday 4/11: Luke 24:36-53</i>	Psalm 96	Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12	Ephesians 1:17-20	

Weekly Congregational Response

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from the
Father's love, any participation in the Holy Spirit,
May we do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility count others more significant than ourselves.
May we have this mind among ourselves, which is ours in
Christ Jesus,
Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count
equality with God a thing to be grasped,
But emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
Being found in human form, He humbled Himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Adapted from Philippians 2:1-11

*Weekly Prayer in Response to the
Assurance of Pardon*

Alba Father

Help us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely.
And help us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith,
Who, for the joy that was set before Him,
Endured the cross, despising the shame,
And is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Although we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him,
Help our hearts to rest in His gracious reign over us
As Your redeemed and beloved children.

Amen.

Adapted from Hebrews 12:1-2 & 2:8

Weekly Benediction

May God give you the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge,
Enlightening the eyes of your hearts so you might know
What is the hope to which He has called you,
What are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the
saints,
And what is the immeasurable greatness of His power
toward us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Adapted from Ephesians 1:17-20

The Week of March 7th

Luke 19:28-48

Monday 3/1 **Psalm 118:19-29**: Meditate on what this Psalm teaches us about Jesus. He is the King “who comes in the name of the Lord,” and He is the “festal sacrifice” who was given to save us from our sin!

Tuesday 3/2 **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**: Meditate on the fact that Jesus is the Lord God who “comes with might” and who “tends His flock like a shepherd.” Which aspect of Jesus’ character do you need to reflect on more: His sovereignty or His gentleness?

Wednesday 3/3 Pray for Dave Lindberg and his family who are planting a church in New Jersey, and ask God to use them to lead many people to bless the name of King Jesus.

Thursday 3/4 **Luke 19:28-48**: Why do you think Jesus weeps over Jerusalem? Pray for those in your spheres of influence who do not yet bless the name of King Jesus.

Friday 3/5 **Philippians 2:1-11**³: What encouragement do you find in Jesus’ humble obedience and death on our behalf? How is that encouragement equipping you to put the interests of others before your own?

Saturday 3/6 Take time to repent of the way selfish ambition has blurred your vision of Jesus. In preparation for tomorrow’s worship service, ask God to drive out the things in our hearts that get in the way of our worship and mission.

Sunday 3/7 **The Lord’s Day Sabbath**: Ask the Holy Spirit to help us improve upon our baptisms as we devote ourselves to King Jesus in worship and mission.

³ Our devotionals usually consider the benediction text on Fridays. However, we will consider our congregational response on Fridays during this series. This change was made because **Philippians 2:1-11** will help us remember the pattern of Christ’s humiliation and exaltation each week.

The Week of March 14th

Luke 22:1-30

Monday 3/8 **Psalm 23:** Give thanks for some specific ways in which God has shepherded you with His goodness recently. Then take a moment to prayerfully look forward to that day when we will dwell in His presence forever.

Tuesday 3/9 **Isaiah 41:1-9:** How has Jesus been gentle and lowly toward you? How is His gentleness shaping your interaction with others in your spheres of influence—especially those who are bruised and faint of heart?

Wednesday 3/10 Pray for Byron Johnson and Vision 9:38 as they seek to equip missionaries who labor to serve the lost and see them become members of God's Kingdom.

Thursday 3/11 **Luke 22:1-30:** Why do you think the disciples fought about who was the greatest? Where do you try to find your 'greatness'?

Friday 3/12 **Philippians 2:1-11:** Meditate on Jesus' example of humble service and ask Him to give you a servant's heart.

Saturday 3/13 Pray for our worship service tomorrow. Ask God to use our worship to bind Christ Community Church together as Christ's body, that we might be unified in joy, mind, and love, and devoted to mutual service.

Sunday 3/14 **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Ask the Holy Spirit to work through the Lord's Supper to sustain our joyful hope as we await the day when we will dine with King Jesus in His Kingdom.

The Week of March 21st

Luke 22:31-65

Monday 3/15 **Psalm 75:** How has God lifted you up and steadied you during this past year when the earth has especially seemed to totter beneath our feet? Give Him thanks and praise for sustaining you!

Tuesday 3/16 **Isaiah 51:17, 21-23:** Meditate on the wondrous truth that, despite what your sin deserves, God has given Jesus the cup of His wrath to drink in full on your behalf.

Wednesday 3/17 Pray for the Robertsons with MTW South America as they seek to plant and support churches that follow Christ and that stand firm in prayer during trials and temptation.

Thursday 3/18 **Luke 22:31-65:** What do you notice about the way Jesus prays for Peter and for Himself? What role is prayer playing in the way you love God and neighbor?

Friday 3/19 **Philippians 2:1-11:** What comfort do you find in the Father's love, knowing that He was willing to send His Son to obey where we rebelled and to die the death we deserve? Remember that the Father sent the Son to save us *to*—not *from*—the Father.

Saturday 3/20 Pray that God would prepare our hearts for worship and ask Him to use our worship to lead us not into temptation but to deliver us from evil.

Sunday 3/21 **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Ask the Holy Spirit to use the means of grace to strengthen our resolve in prayer and our willingness to suffer with Christ.

The Week of March 28th

Luke 22:66-23:25

Monday 3/22 **Psalm 27:** Take a moment to seek the Lord's face. Enjoy God simply for who He is. Even if this is difficult for you during this season, continue to wait for the Lord. Ask Him to make His face shine upon you in Christ in His good timing.

Tuesday 3/23 **Isaiah 51:12-16:** Whose opinion or judgment do you fear the most? Meditate on God's words to us in Christ: "You are my people."

Wednesday 3/24 Pray for the Caltons as they serve with RUF at KSU. Ask God to help them humbly listen to students' questions about Jesus so that many would come to know Him as King.

Thursday 3/25 **Luke 22:66-23:25:** How do you respond to Jesus when He doesn't meet your expectations? When are you most likely to turn to something else instead of trusting in God's purposes and plans?

Friday 3/26 **Philippians 2:1-11:** Meditate on the fact that Jesus did not cling to His equality with God or insist upon His rights even when faced with false accusations that led to His condemnation.

Saturday 3/27 Ask God to prepare your heart for our worship service tomorrow. Ask Him to reveal the ways you try to fashion Christ in your own image rather than seeking for King Jesus to fashion you in His image.

Sunday 3/28 **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Ask the Holy Spirit to use the means of grace to humble us before our King who suffered and was condemned in our place.

The Week of April 4th

**Luke 23:26-56 &
Luke 24:1-35**

Monday 3/29 **Psalm 31:** Meditate on the fact that Jesus, who knew no sin, suffered the shame and forsakenness that we deserve because of our sin. How does knowing this encourage you to entrust yourself to God's hands at all times?

Tuesday 3/30 **Isaiah 53:1-12:** Meditate on the fact that the Father was willing to send the Son and that the Son was willing to die—all for our salvation. What does this teach us about God's love for us?

Wednesday 3/31 Pray for Grace Potter as she serves as the RUF intern at KSU, and ask God to fill her and the students she serves with joy as they encounter the crucified King and risen Lord through His Word.

Thursday 4/1 **Luke 23:26-56:** How do the various characters in this part of the story respond to Jesus' death on the cross? How do you respond to Jesus' death on the cross?

Friday 4/2 **Philippians 2:1-11:** What does it mean that Jesus was obedient? Why does His obedience matter for us?

Saturday 4/3 Prayerfully reflect on Jesus' death and burial. Ask God to use yesterday's and tomorrow's worship services to deepen our appreciation for Jesus taking our sins to the grave.

Sunday 4/4 **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Ask the Holy Spirit to use the Lord's Supper to open our eyes to the power at work in our lives through our union with the risen Lord Jesus.

The Week of April 11th

Luke 24:36-53

Monday 4/5 **Psalm 96:** Take time to adore the Lord and to ascribe to Him the glory due His name. How does your worship of the Lord shape your desire to tell others about Jesus?

Tuesday 4/6 **Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12:** Meditate on the names that the Lord gives His people in Christ. Which of these names is most meaningful to you, and why?

Wednesday 4/7 Pray for Jim Whittle as he serves ELI India. Ask God to use him to equip many as faithful witnesses who proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the nations.

Thursday 4/8 **Luke 24:36-53:** How has Jesus opened your mind to understand the Scriptures? How is God's Word shaping your love for Him and for your neighbors?

Friday 4/9 **Philippians 2:1-11:** Ask the Holy Spirit to unite us as Christ's body as we await the day when every knee shall bow and tongue confess that He is Lord. How is your hope for that future day shaping your life in the present?

Saturday 4/10 Pray that God would use the worship service tomorrow to deepen our knowledge of Scripture and to remind us of our certain hope in the risen Lord Jesus.

Sunday 4/11 **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Ask the Holy Spirit to use the means of grace to stir up our desire to proclaim the name of Jesus so that God's Kingdom would get bigger before the return of the King.