

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 31, 2024

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 100 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;

**give thanks to him and praise his name.**

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

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

*The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.*

***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:** Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host of angels to praise the risen and exalted Lamb, who was slain for the forgiveness of our sins and raised for our justification.

**All:** We confess that despite the grace we have received in Christ, we have sinned against you and others with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to honor you and give you the thanks and praise you alone deserve.

**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 glory, honor, and praise be to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. 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 of the Month) (sung to “The Church’s One Foundation”)

### *I Have No Other Comfort*

I have no other comfort  
Which life and death endures  
Than that I am my Savior’s,  
Whose death my life secures.  
To you with soul and body,  
O Jesus, I belong;  
You are my only Master  
And my Redeemer strong.

Your blood is full atonement  
For all my sin and guilt;  
The cross is all my glory;  
On you my faith is built.  
And you, my great deliv’rer,  
Are my preserver too;  
You guide all of my footsteps,  
And lead me clearly through.

Whatever things betide me  
Must serve to save my soul;  
The Father watches o’er me  
To keep me safe and whole.  
Yes, by the Holy Spirit  
I fully am assured  
That mine is life eternal  
According to your Word.

And so you make me willing  
With all my heart and mind  
To live for you, my Savior,  
So loving, true, and kind.  
To you with soul and body,  
O Jesus, I belong;  
You are my only Master  
And my Redeemer strong. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed (p. 846)*

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his 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;  
and 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we 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;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

## THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Acts 13:26-43

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 72:8, 11-12, 18-19])

Hymn 11

### *Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God*

Now blessed be the Lord our God,  
The God of Israel,  
For he alone does wondrous works  
In glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name  
To all eternity;  
The whole earth let his glory fill.  
Amen, so let it be.

His wide dominion shall extend  
From sea to utmost sea,  
And unto earth's remotest bounds  
His peaceful rule shall be.

Yea, all the kings shall bow to him,  
His rule all nations hail;  
He will regard the poor man's cry  
When other helpers fail. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Christ Is Risen!”  
Luke 23:50 - 24:12

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

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.*

## Benediction\*

### Congregational Benediction Response\*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his communion,  
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

## SERMON NOTES

“Christ Is Risen!”

Luke 23:50 - 24:12

1. Jesus' resurrection was unexpected by his followers.
2. Jesus' resurrection was God's plan.  
Luke 9:21-22, 44; 18:31-33  
John 17:1-5, 24
3. Jesus' resurrection is our assurance of eternal life.  
1 Corinthians 15:20-23

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.*

## **Monday, April 1**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:1 - 20:20; Luke 9:28-50; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 12:10

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 7

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

## **Tuesday, April 2**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 21:1 - 22:30; Luke 9:51 - 10:12; Psalm 74:1-23; Prov. 12:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

## **Wednesday, April 3**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 23:1 - 25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Prov. 12:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

## **Thursday, April 4**

Scripture: Deut. 26:1 - 27:26; Luke 10:38 - 11:13; Psalm 76:1-12; Prov. 12:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

## **Friday, April 5**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Psalm 77:1-20; Proverbs 12:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.  
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

## **Saturday, April 6**

Scripture: Deut. 29:1 - 30:20; Luke 11:37 - 12:7; Psalm 78:1-31; Prov. 12:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 35

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

## **Sunday, April 7**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1 - 32:27; Luke 12:8-34; Psalm 78:32-55; Prov. 12:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 36

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**

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

**Christ Bible Institute | Nagoya, Japan**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Last Sunday we learned that the Nicene Creed is a historical summary of the essentials of our Christian faith, and we noted especially the phrase about Christ's Second Coming: "he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead." Another essential stated in the Creed is Christ's resurrection, which is summarized in the phrase: "he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures..." The resurrection of Christ is the ground of our faith. Paul writes that if Christ has not been raised, then our faith is in vain. If Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile, and we are still in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:12-19). But the good news we read throughout the New Testament is that Christ has been raised, which means our faith is not in vain, and we are no longer in our sins. We can rejoice in knowing that "death is swallowed up in victory" as we give thanks to God, "who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). Philip Graham Ryken, in his commentary on Luke, writes:

According to the word of the gospel, Jesus is not among the dead, but among the living. He was crucified for the forgiveness of all our sins. His sacrifice has been accepted by God and now he has risen from the grave. Death is not the end for us, but by faith we have the free gift of eternal life. Now the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, shining in glory and ruling the universe. One day soon he will raise us up to be with him forever, to the glory of God.

1. Read Luke 23:55 - 24:1. Why did the women bring spices and ointments to Jesus' tomb? What does this reveal about their devotion to Jesus? What does it reveal about what they expected to find in Jesus' tomb?
2. Read Luke 24:5. What is the irony in the angels' question?
3. What did the angels explain to the women to help them understand that Jesus was raised? Read the three passages in Luke in which Jesus clearly explains what will happen to him: Luke 9:21-22; 9:43-45; 18:31-34. Why did Jesus tell them in advance what would happen to him?
4. How does Jesus revealing to them in advance what would happen to him show his love for his chosen people? How does it reveal his obedience to the Father? How does this bring you assurance in your salvation? How does it increase your desire to glorify and praise Christ?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. What is meant by the word "firstfruits"? How does Paul connect our assurance of eternal life with Jesus' resurrection?