



# WORSHIP SERVICE

April 20, 2025

For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

**Psalm 22:28**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 103 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

**The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

**he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

**as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

**for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;

**the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.**

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

**with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,

**and his kingdom rules over all.**

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

**Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.**

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

**Praise the LORD, O my soul.**

*\* 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)

Hymn 695

### *By Grace I Am an Heir of Heaven*

By grace I am an heir of heaven:  
Why doubt this, O my trembling heart?  
If what the Scriptures promise clearly  
Is true and firm in ev'ry part,  
This also must be truth divine:  
By grace a crown of life is mine.

By grace alone shall I inherit  
That blissful home beyond the skies.  
Works count for naught, the Lord incarnate  
Has won for me the heav'nly prize.  
Salvation by his death he wrought,  
His grace alone my pardon bought.

By grace! These precious words remember  
When sorely by your sins oppressed,  
When Satan comes to vex your spirit,  
When troubled conscience sighs for rest;  
What reason cannot comprehend,  
God does to you by grace extend.

By grace! Be this in death my comfort;  
Despite my fears, 'tis well with me.  
I know my sin in all its greatness,  
But also him who sets me free.  
My heart to naught but joy gives place  
Since I am saved by grace, by grace. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 91.** *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

**A.** The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in those who by faith receive them.

**Q. 92.** *What is a sacrament?*

**A.** A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which, by perceptible signs, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

**Q. 93.** *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

**A.** The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### 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.

❖ *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\*

Matthew 27:62 - 28:20

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 95:1-6])

Hymn 13

### *O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord*

O come, let us sing to the Lord, to him our voices raise;  
With joyful noise let us the Rock of our salvation praise.

Let us before his presence come with praise and thankful voice;  
Let us sing psalms to him with grace, and make a joyful noise.

For God's a great God and great King; above all gods he is.  
The depths of earth are in his hand; the heights of hills are his.

To him the spacious sea belongs, for he the same did make;  
The dry land also from his hands its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship him; let us bow down withal,  
And on our knees before the Lord, our Maker, let us fall. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Christ Is Risen!”  
Matthew 27:62 - 28:10

## **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 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.*



# SERMON NOTES

“Christ Is Risen!”  
Matthew 27:62 - 28:10

1. Jesus’ resurrection was unstoppable.

Because Jesus is God. (John 10:17-18)

Because his resurrection was part of God’s eternal plan. (John 17:1-5, 24)

Because his resurrection was prophesied. (Acts 2:24-31)

2. Jesus’ resurrection is good news that the whole world must hear about.

The announcement: “he has risen, as he said” (v. 6)

The proof: “come...see” (v. 6)

The commission: “go... and tell” (v. 7; Matthew 28:18-20)

3. Jesus’ resurrection proves that by faith in him, we are forgiven and adopted into his family.

“go and tell *my brothers*” (v. 10; Romans 4:5; Hebrews 2:11)

Westminster Confession of Faith Ch. 12: “All those that are justified, God permitted, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.”

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## Monday, April 21

Scripture: Joshua 22:21 - 23:16; Luke 20:27-47; Psalm 89:14-37; Proverbs 13:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 29

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

## Tuesday, April 22

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-33; Luke 21:1-28; Psalm 89:38-52; Proverbs 13:20-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 40

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

## Wednesday, April 23

Scripture: Judges 1:1 - 2:9; Luke 21:29 - 22:13; Psalm 90:1 - 91:16; Proverbs 13:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

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

## Thursday, April 24

Scripture: Judges 2:10 - 3:31; Luke 22:14-34; Psalm 92:1 - 93:5; Proverbs 14:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42

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

## Friday, April 25

Scripture: Judges 4:1 - 5:31; Luke 22:35-53; Psalm 94:1-23; Proverbs 14:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43

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

## Saturday, April 26

Scripture: Judges 6:1-40; Luke 22:54 - 23:12; Psalm 95:1 - 96:13; Proverbs 14:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

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

## Sunday, April 27

Scripture: Judges 7:1 - 8:17; Luke 23:13-43; Psalm 97:1 - 98:9; Proverbs 14:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45

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 in Belize**

**Dave Eby in Uganda**

**Christ Bible Institute in Japan**

**The Shepherd's Church in Riverside**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Jesus' resurrection was the first stage of his exaltation. After undergoing humiliation throughout his life as he obeyed the law and suffered the curse of sin for us, he was raised in glory. He was not just resuscitated by the power of God, but he was raised in a glorified body. This is why the Apostle Paul describes Jesus' resurrection as the "firstfruits" (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). The idea of firstfruits is from the Old Testament, wherein God commanded Israel to bring the first and best portions of their harvest as offerings in worship. The firstfruits represented the whole harvest, because everything belongs to God. In the same way, Christ was the first to be raised in glory, and his resurrection represents the whole resurrection harvest—it points to the day when his whole Church will be raised in glory. J.I. Packer, in his book titled *Concise Theology*, explains the theological significance of Jesus' resurrection when he writes:

Christianity rests on the certainty of Jesus' resurrection as a space-time occurrence in history. All four Gospels highlight it, focusing on the empty tomb and resurrection appearances, and Acts insists on it. Paul regarded the resurrection as indisputable proof that the message about Jesus as Judge and Savior is true. Jesus' resurrection demonstrated his victory over death, vindicated him as righteous, and indicated his divine identity. It led on to his ascension and enthronement and his present heavenly reign. It guarantees the believer's present forgiveness and justification and is the basis of resurrection life in Christ for the believer here and now.

1. Read Acts 2:22-36. How does Peter compare David and Jesus? Why does Peter say that it was not possible for Jesus "to be held by" death (verse 24)? What does this reveal about God's power, and how can you draw comfort from this truth?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. How does Paul describe the future physical resurrection of believers? What conclusion does he draw in verse 58 about how this truth should affect our attitudes and actions in this life?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus referred to his disciples as his "brothers" in Matthew 28:10? What does this reveal about his grace toward his people?
4. Read Westminster Confession of Faith chapter 32. How does knowing that all Christians will "be raised, by [Christ's] Spirit, to honor, and brought into conformity with Christ's own glorious body" encourage you? How might you encourage fellow Christians with this doctrine?



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