

ORDER OF WORSHIP

12 APRIL | EASTER SUNDAY

Notes on Today's Worship Service

Welcome to worship this Easter Sunday. We're glad you've gathered with the International Protestant Church of Zurich to seek God's face. If you're participating in a live service, here are some things to help enrich your experience. If you're worshipping on your own, most of this can be ignored.

Screen Splitting. If you're participating in the virtual service, it will be helpful to split your screen, with Zoom on one side, and this Order of Worship on the other. (Learn to do this on Windows and Mac.) Or, you can use one device for Zoom and another for the Order of Worship.

Muting. Awkward as it is, please keep yourself muted during the service unless you are leading a certain part of the service. Otherwise it gets very noisy. During responsive parts of the service, keep yourself muted but please do participate!

Video Syncing. Please be ready to play videos that are embedded in the Order of Worship at the same time as the rest of the congregation. This will help us move to the next part of the service at the same time.

Stay afterward for Coffee Hour! Pour a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship for 15 minutes or so after the service concludes. We will give instructions for entering different "rooms" for conversation.

Gathering in God's Presence

Greeting

The Bible is full of greetings, and our worship leader greets us in God's name.

Revelation 1:4-5

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

And peace to you from our risen Savior!

Prelude

Resurrection Medley | Gordon Schultz

*Call to Worship

Our Call to Worship draws us into conversation with our God, and is usually taken from our Psalm of the Day. We address one another and enter God's presence together.

From Psalm 16

Come! Say to the LORD, "You are my Lord! Apart from you I have no good thing!"

We have come to take refuge in our God, in whom we find safety!

Come! Greet one another—for we are set apart for his purposes!

We have come to delight in our Lord, and also in one another!

Come! With your eyes always on the LORD, praise the God who is always present to give us counsel!

Our hearts are glad! Our tongues rejoice! Our bodies rest secure!

Come! For our Lord is full of life, and will not abandon us to death!

We are here to walk the path of life! We've come to be filled with joy in his presence! We await eternal pleasures at his right hand!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Invocation**

Having called one another to God's praise, we turn to God and ask for his presence and power.

From Psalm 16

Gracious and mighty God, we have gathered with glad hearts! Make our hearts even more glad as the good tidings of Christ's resurrection wash over us! Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered with songs on our lips. Be pleased to be enthroned on our praises, even though they are insufficient when compared to your resurrection glory! Sevenfold Spirit of God: your presence in us and among us unites our very bodies not only with the suffering body of Christ Jesus, but also with his resurrected and glorified body, which sits now on the throne of glory! Father, Son, and Spirit, preach the good news of your victory over sin, death, and hell to us, your church, this Easter Sunday. As we lift our hearts up to heaven, join our praises with all the glorified spirits who worship before your throne, and with all the angels of heaven—indeed, with all of creation, as we worship you: our Creator, our Redeemer, our Friend. We pray through the Resurrected One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

***Song of Praise**

With our Song of Praise, we begin our worship by exalting God for who he is and what he has done.

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

We ask God to make the Scripture fresh, encouraging, and convicting to us as we sit under its ministry.

From Psalm 16

Gracious God and Father, it thrills our hearts to think that we, your children, are the noble ones in whom the heart of our Savior Jesus delights. Because of his great delight in us, and because of his glorious resurrection, we will turn to no one else but him; we will offer no sacrifice of praise to another; we will take the name of no other upon our lips. As we attend to your Word, give us counsel. As we place our eyes upon Jesus alone, give our hearts instruction that will sustain us night and day. By the power of your Spirit, take hold of our souls and spirits and lead us in the way of life—the way of resurrection life that Jesus now leads us along for his name's sake, and for our good and glory. Amen.

Psalm of the Day

Our Psalm of the Day anchors our worship in God's Word. The Psalms allow us to express our praise, confess our need, and offer our prayers.

Psalm 16

A *miktam* of David.

- 1 Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.
- 2 **I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."**
- 3 I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."
- 4 **Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.**
- 5 Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- 6 **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;**

- surely I have a delightful inheritance.**
- 7 I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- 8 **I keep my eyes always on the Lord.**
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- 10 **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,**
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
- 11 You make known to me the path of life;
You will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Examination

The Psalmist says in verse 4 that “those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.” In the ancient world, a god was a being with whom people tried to make a deal. “We’ll make sacrifices to you, and honor you. In exchange, you have to save us.” It looks like a good deal. It looked like a good deal for many of the Israelites. But the one true God, who reached down into Israel’s pain and misery and slavery, and saved them by pure grace, knows that it’s a horrible deal.

The gods of the world demand our allegiance. But then they fail to save us, no matter how many sacrifices we make for them. Friends, we too often serve the false gods of money, sex, power. We serve the pathetic and demanding gods of health, wealth, and happiness. We give ourselves to them. But they guarantee nothing in return. In fact, they always disappoint us, once they’re through using and abusing us.

Our God is completely different. God saves by pure grace, and then calls us to give our lives to him in return—a sacrifice of praise. Why do we forsake him, and put our hope in politics, finances, family, and security, when he alone can save?

May this Easter Sunday be the day in which we turn from the dead, dumb, and deaf gods of the world and turn instead to the Living and True God, our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us confess our sin.

Confession of Sin

Gracious and merciful God, we confess that we keep money, security, health, comfort, and ultimately ourselves too often on the throne of our hearts. We serve these false gods and entertain the false hope that they will not fail us. But only you can make us secure. Only at your right hand do we find lasting pleasures. Only with you at our side do we walk down the path of life. Forgive us for wandering so quickly from you. Free us from the grip of idols like you freed your people from slavery in Egypt. Bind our hearts to our resurrected and glorified Savior, Jesus Christ, alone, and for his sake, forgive us, renew us, and lead us onward. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Pardon**

Holy people of God, good news! Our Lord Jesus Christ delights in us, for we are his inheritance! He knows that we have no good thing apart from him. And so he has rescued us from the guilt of our sin, and will continue to deliver us from the power of sin. He saves you by pure grace, and now calls you to walk the path of life with him. Because he gave up his life for you at the cross, and because God the Father raised him from the dead and did not let Jesus' body decay in the grave, you are able to walk the paths of life with fullness of joy—and with no regard for the false promises of false gods. Go in the peace of Jesus, and sin no more! Amen!

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to God 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.

Preaching of the Word

Children's Sermon

Sermon

New Testament Lesson

For Andy's Sermon: John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

***“Easter By the Empty Tomb: Why Are You Weeping?”
(Morning Worship)***

***“Easter by the Seashore: Lord, What about Him?”
(Evening Worship)***

John 21:15-25

Responding to God’s Word

Prayer for Our Tithes and Offerings

Jeff Anhut, Elder for Membership and Nominations

Please consider taking this time to make a contribution to the ministry of our church through an online bank transfer, PayPal, or Twint. For more, [click here](#).

Offertory

“Do Not Fear”

by Johannah Swank Baltensperger and Jonas Baltensperger

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.

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Prayers of the People

We join together in prayer. We praise God; we pray for our world, for the church, for ourselves, and we pray the Lord's Prayer.

At the end of each petition, the leader will say:

Lord, in your mercy ...

And the congregation may respond:

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Now we pray together the prayer our Lord taught us, saying:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Going with God's Commission and Blessing

Welcome of Guests and Announcements

Sending Song

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Commissioning and Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.