

Straight from the "Hart"

April 17, 2022

Easter Son Rise



Son Rise Service 8:30 am

Welcome

Pastor: He is Risen! **C: He is Risen Indeed!** Good morning and best blessings on this Easter morning Son Rise Service.

Call to Worship

Lay Reader: Christ is risen. Christ is living. Dry your tears. Be unafraid. Death and darkness could not hold him. Nor the tomb in which he lay. Do not look among the dead for one who lives forevermore. Tell the world that Christ is risen... [Come, worship, and adore]. (From Cristo Vive Nicolas Martinezm tr. by Fred Kaan)



Opening Prayer

Let's pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you defeated death's power and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Today we have gathered to open our hearts in joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection, realizing that by your life-giving Spirit we can celebrate full life even now. Amen. Join in on an Easter affirmation.

Easter Affirmation (P - Pastor, C - Congregation)

P: The Good News that came to you is going out all over the world and is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day

you first heard and understood the truth about Gods wonderful grace.

C: For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

P: We hear of your Holy Spirit given love for all God's people and others, and of your faith in Christ Jesus.

C: Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God. He is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before creation, everything was created through him and for him, and he holds all creation together. Jesus Christ is the head of Creation. He is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the head over all who rise from the dead.

P: God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.

C: Through Christ, God reconciled everything to himself, making peace with everything in heaven and on earth -- by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

P: This is the Good News you welcomed and in which you still stand firm. It saves you if you continue to believe its message:

C: Christ died for our sins. He was buried and was raised from the dead. He [appeared first to the women]. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. And then by more than 500 of his followers.

P: Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

C: Everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life, and will be raised when he comes back.

(Adapted from Colossians 1:6,13-14,4,8, 15-20,1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 20,22)

Music Leader: We will be raised because God raised Christ from the dead, so let's rise and sing...

Music *Up From the Grave He Arose*

Series Review We continue laying the foundational building blocks of establishing and maintaining a rock-solid relationship with God. We began by **seeing** Jesus and his mission on earth. We learn to grow in **knowing** God personally. We do this by



carefully **listening** to him -- and by **speaking** to him as a loving Father. We follow Jesus' example by **servicing** others. All these together begin to form a lifestyle, a way of **living, sharing** our lives with each other, offering ourselves to each other for the betterment of our world -- and as we do, Jesus begins the work a **transformation** within us and in his world. None of this would be possible if it weren't for Jesus' death and his **resurrection**. [Pause while pastor adds brick] For it is not only the example the life Jesus lived, but his living presence with us that allows us to sustain a loving relationship with God and others.

Bible Introduction

Luke records several encounters with the living Jesus. He summarized the 40 days he spent with his disciples after his resurrection and before he returned to heaven, teaching them and others that what happened to him was how it had to happen.

Bible Reading Acts 1:3, Luke 24:46-48

To these [men] {Jesus} also showed Himself alive after His suffering [in Gethsemane and on the cross], by [a series of] many infallible proofs *and* unquestionable demonstrations, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and talking to them about the things concerning the kingdom of God. (AMP) And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day; and that this message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations: *There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me.* You have seen these prophecies come true. (TLB)

Music Leader: All this happened because Jesus Christ set aside his deity, humbled himself to death on a cross, and as a result God raised him up with a name that is above every name that all will bow and confess Jesus is Lord. Let's worship him for all he has done by singing Majesty...

Music *Majesty*

Meditation Established: By Resurrection (Part 1)

Friday night I mentioned how some people like to read the end of a book first so that they are not surprised by what the ending is. Or when they watch a movie the second time because we already know how it is going to turn out, we already know who-done-it if it is a mystery. Today we will start with the pendulum on the opposite

side of that swing and talk about some people read a book and never do get to the end so don't know how it turns out. its swing. Or even worse, if you watch a TV series, and they leave all these cliff hangers, and then all of a sudden you realize that it is at the end of the episode, and then you realize it no only the end of the episode, it is the end of the season. And then you find out that they have cancelled it and there is no new season! And you are left with all these cliff hangers and you will never have any idea how any of it will end up. Very frustrating.



Friday night, Mary Jo sang about the via dolorosa, the road of sorrow, the stations of the cross, the path that Jesus took from Pilate's judgment to Golgotha to the tomb. I don't know if it is still there, but there is an old story about how every year, thousands of people would climb to a park in the mountains in the Italian Alps passing through these stations of the cross. The way they had it there, they had life size (I believe) dioramas (figurines) that give you a series of kind of like 3-D snapshot photos of the story of the stations of the cross - - helping viewers relive what Jesus experienced during holy week.

One tourist noticed a little grown over trail that went a little bit beyond the cross. He fought through the rough thicket and he came upon a neglected, overgrown final scene that symbolized the empty tomb. Sometimes people skip past Christ's passionate suffering in order to hop to the joy of Easter. But other times, people get stuck in the despair and heartbreak, the Good Fridays of life, and start to live there and forget that there is yet one more major part of the plot that hasn't happened yet -- it is yet to be revealed. Some believe up to the story of the cross, but the unbelievability of the resurrection make them stop short in their faith in a risen Lord. I can't imagine the frustration of that canceled story for them.

So this morning, let's start with the ending of the story. Then in the next worship service we will hear about a couple of people whose story is a little bit before that. So in a sense, we are going to read the end of the novel first. Jesus visited this pair of people who were enroute and in their home. When they realized it was Jesus, and Jesus left them, they rushed the 7 miles back to Jerusalem that night and told the core disciples all about their experience. The ending of Mark says, if it is the same people as it seems to be, the disciples did not believe them at first. But while they were still talking about it, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace

be with you.” And they were startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost. Jesus asked, “Why are you troubled with doubts? Look at my hands and feet -- you can see that is me. Touch me -- feel that I, unlike ghosts, I do have flesh and bones. Before they doubted because they were troubled -- now they still had trouble believing but now it from amazing joy -- it was unbelievably the other direction... and they just couldn’t take it all in... Jesus asked for some food, and they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it in front of them. We assume that is another sign he was trying to give them that he was real and in front of them. (ghosts don’t eat...) Then he explained to them from Scriptures how his death and resurrection was predicted and it is now fulfilled, and he opened their minds to understand, and there is forgiveness for all who repent and they were witnesses that would begin spreading the message to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

And now we can relax -- because we have heard the end of the story. And unbelievable joy becomes believable to those who open their mind to it.

Years ago, William Sangster, was a preacher and Methodist Conference leader in Britain. He was diagnosed with progressive muscular atrophy. By the time he was 58 he was seriously hampered by it, yet for the remaining 2 years of his life he suffered with courage; continuing to throw himself in the work of home missions; writing, praying, and organizing prayer cells. When people felt sorry for him, he’d often say, "I'm only in the kindergarten of suffering." Gradually he could no longer walk or speak. He could barely shakily hold a pen. On Easter of that final that year, he wrote a letter to his daughter with these words: "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice with which to shout, 'He is risen!' - but it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout." So let’s give the early Christian greeting and response (and you better shout it now! 😊): **He is risen. He is risen indeed! He is risen!! He is risen indeed!!**

Prayer Let’s pray. Lord, we thank you that we live in a time that we can know the end of the story -- we may not know exactly how everything will play out in our lives and in the future, but we know that everything is in your hands, and we can indeed trust you because you are risen. And it is in the risen Lord’s name that we pray. Amen.

Music Leader: The end of the story is that our King Jesus has taken the throne after dying for us, and triumphing over the grave so that we too may have eternal

life. Let's stand as comfortable and sing.

Music # 327 (vv 1,2,4) *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Blessing

Now go - established in the rock-solid love of God by [seeing, knowing, listening, speaking, and serving, living and transforming], nurturing a growing relationship with our *risen* Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who makes it all possible by leading, our old lives to the cross, and through it raises us to new and eternal life. Amen.

Straight from the "Hart"

April 17, 2022 10:00 am

Easter Worship



Welcome L: He is Risen! **C: He is Risen Indeed!**

Prayer Loving God, during this time of victorious resurrection we think of the power of your love for your world. Our minds and hearts rejoice that we can tangibly reach out with your love through this act of giving of our ourselves, in Jesus name. Amen.

Call to Worship

Lay Reader: Come, worship, for his promise can be trusted. You will live because Christ lives. Death has lost its sting and terror. Death has lost its old dominion. Let the world rejoice and shout! He gives us life and leads us out... Christ the Lord has come to reign. Let us thank our God, for Christ is risen. Christ is living. Christ is giving -- life eternal, life profound.

Pastor: Christ is risen, and we will rise to celebrate Christ, who is the Resurrection. Let's sing...

Music (vv 1-5) *Christ the Lord, is Risen Today*

Drama with special music

John - Charles Kirkpatrick, Mary - Mary Jo Bell,
Mary Magdalene - Kelly McIntyre, Angela - Sara Williams

JOHN - My name is John, I am a disciple of Jesus. I have the most distressing news to share. Our Lord was sentenced to death by order of Pontius Pilate. The soldiers dragged Jesus into the streets and the crowds were yelling "Crucify him! Crucify him!" The soldiers beat him, and mocked him by calling him the King of the Jews and they placed a crown of thorns upon His head. They stripped him and divided his garments among them and cast lots for his clothes. They made him carry his own cross to the place where he was crucified. They nailed his hands and feet to the cross and lifted it up for him to hang from.



The minutes turned to hours that my Lord suffered on the cross. Mary the mother

of Jesus and Mary Magdalene were there. We were filled with fear and there was nothing we could do but bear witness to this horrific event.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, He looked down and saw his loving and devoted Mother Mary. He saw me standing nearby, and he said to her, "Woman, this is your son". And he said to me, "This is your mother." What an honor he has bestowed upon me. I will take her into my home and there she shall live the remainder of her days. Mary is devastated by the loss of her son but she knows that his death and sacrifice was because of the love he had for us all.

Once it was done, the guards took down his body because the Sabbath was quickly approaching. They gave him to the man Joseph of Arimathea and another man named Nicodemus. They took him, wrapped him in linen cloths filled with spices. Then they brought his body here and placed it in this tomb and sealed it with a stone. [John exits]

ENTER MARY

Mary - My Son, I know that you are not here, but I needed to be close to you one last time. I haven't much time before the Sabbath begins but I just needed to be close to you. I was so incredibly blessed that God chose me to be your mother and I was here for your first and your last breath. I have this ache in my soul, I feel as though a sword has pierced my heart and I am so overcome with grief. But I know that you are at the right hand of the Father - at your rightful place. I know that you are always with me, and that this is God's will. I shall never forget all you endured here on earth and for the horrible way you left it. The scorn and hatred of all of those people will stay in my mind forever. May God have mercy on all their souls. Their hatred fills their hearts, and how sad their life must be.

You gave your life as a ransom for so many and yet they did not see. How empty are their hearts. Why did he have to take you away from me so soon -- I know that it is selfish of me and I know it is not my place to question. As a servant, I know all is done at the will of the Father. Father, if you can hear me, I am desperately asking you to heal my broken heart and give me peace.

Music – *Thy Will*

I'm so confused I know I heard You loud and clear
 So, I followed through and somehow I ended up here
 I don't wanna think -- I may never understand
 that my broken heart is a part of your plan
 When I try to pray -- all I've got is hurt and these four



words

Thy will be done, Thy will be done, Thy will be done
 I know you're good but this don't feel good right now
 And I know you think of things I could never think about
 It's hard to count it all joy distracted by the noise
 just trying to make sense of all Your promises
 Sometimes I gotta stop -- remember that you're God
 and I am not so



Thy will be done, Thy will be done, Thy will be done
 Like a child on my knees all that comes to me is
 Thy will be done, Thy will be done, Thy will
 I know you see me I know you hear me, Lord
 Your plans are for me -- goodness you have in store
 I know you hear me I know you see me, Lord
 Your plans are for me -- goodness you have in store
 So

Thy will be done, Thy will be done, Thy will be done
 Like a child on my knees all that comes to me is
 Thy will be done, Thy will be done, Thy will be done
 I know you see me -- I know you hear me, Lord

I love you my son, and I shall pray for you every day until we are untied again in heaven. [Mary exits]

[Thunder Sounds as the angel moves stone away]

[Enter **Mary Magdalene**]

I do not know what would have become of me if I had never met my Jesus. I was gravely ill when I first met. He did not run from me or dismiss my illness as so many others had. Instead, Jesus cast 7 demons from me and healed me of all my afflictions. From that day forward, I followed Him faithfully and without fear. I traveled with Him and the disciples as we ministered throughout Galilee and Judea. We taught people about the love of God the Father.

My heart is filled with great sadness at the death of our Lord. Though I do know that he is with his Father in heaven now. It has been a tremendous honor to be present with him in the last hours of life. The others were afraid, but I wasn't. I stayed with him until the Lord said, "It is done". The sky



darkened. The earth shook and his spirit left his body. His death shall forever be known. His death had a purpose. He loved us so much that he sacrificed himself to take away the sins of the world.

We must continue spreading the word of the Gospel. People must know what he did to save us all from our sins. But first, I must do what is right and proper. I have brought spices to prepare my Lord's body for burial now that the Sabbath is over. (moves to the tomb) The tomb...it's open. Surely, they would have not moved Him. Where is He?

ANGEL- Why do you look for the living among the dead? Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here for he has risen just as he said. Remember what he told you while he was still with you in Galilee- "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day be raised again." Come and see the place where he was laid, then go and tell his disciples and Peter that he has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.

MARY MAGDELENE- He is risen! Oh, what joy fills my heart! I must go share with the disciples. [runs out]

ENTER JOHN

JOHN - Peter and I have been told by Mary Magdalene that the Lord's body is gone, but how can that be? They placed a stone over the tomb and Roman soldiers were here. I must see for myself. [Looks in tomb] It is empty indeed! He has risen! Just as he said he would.



Music - Christ is Risen
by Phil Wickham

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.

For I once was lost but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave [2x]

The prodigal is welcomed home,
the sinner now a saint.

For the God who died came back to life
and everything is changed.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave. [x2]

Oh death, where is your sting? Oh fear, where is your power?

For the mighty King of kings has disarmed you.

Delivered and redeemed, eternal life resounds.

Oh, praise his name forever

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave. [x2]

And all throughout eternity our song will be the same

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave.

And on the day you call me in to heaven's sweet embrace.

I'll see your scars, your open arms, the beauty of your face.

Through tears of joy, I'll lift my voice in everlasting praise.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave.

Oh death, where is your sting? Oh fear, where is your power?

For the mighty King of kings has disarmed you.

Delivered and redeemed, eternal life resounds.

Oh, praise his name forever

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave. [x2]

and all throughout eternity, our song will be the same,

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave. [x2]

Jesus is alive!

and all throughout eternity, our song will be the same,

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave.

And on the day you call me in to heaven's sweet embrace.

I'll see your scars, your open arms, the beauty of your face.

Through tears of joy, I'll lift my voice in everlasting praise,

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave.

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[John exits]

Prayers



Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and you restore all things through the victory of Jesus Christ that we just relived through drama. By his resurrection power, enable us to continue to make a difference in your world, bringing provision to poverty, healing to sickness, compassionate caring to selfishness, peace to conflict, generosity to greed -- that your new creation and kingdom in Jesus may display your justice, love, and hope in a world that is in deep need of your grace; that we may bring honor to your name until we finally share in the resurrection and abide in your presence.

You gather us out of the darkness that has spoken its worst in the death of our Savior, and you bring us out of that into the light of Christ who was resurrected. Be with each amid temptation, with each that is weighed down by pain or grief or fear. And as we remember the story of God's gracious presence with us through life and death, heal our sorrow and lift us up in the delight of your restoration and wholeness. Therefore, we lift our prayers to you on behalf of all creation -- which you offer answers to us in your time and in your way -- according to your unwavering love which delivers so many acts of mercy.

Praises and Petitions * We continue to pray for the Ukraine, we give you thanks for so many answers to prayers that we have heard in recent days, we pray for all those who are on our hearts and minds, but have not been named aloud. * We look at the insert of flowers given in memory and honor, and we give thanks for the impact that those people have had on our lives, and the lives of our fellow church members and friends and the communities and countries in which they lived. And surely there are those whom we remember that may not be represented by flowers, but are no less important to us and we think of them as well in this next moment of silence. **SILENCE** Now Lord, as the sun rises above us, and your Son is risen within us, enlighten our understanding in ways that renew our trust, that restore our delight in your goodness, that we may soak in your presence, and be empowered to better live as you taught us to pray: **LORD'S PRAYER**

Bible Reading Introduction

Before John discovered the truth of the empty tomb, we hear another story. He and the other mourning disciples were not convinced that the report of Mary Magdalene was true, or of another pair of Christ followers who reported their experience. (See Mark 16:9-13) What follows are the high points of their experience...

They were returning home from Jerusalem and talking about everything that had