



April 4, 2021
Resurrection of the Lord
EASTER SUNDAY

REFLECTION

“It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It’s the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can’t be packaged, and it can’t be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement.” — Eugene H. Peterson

PRELUDE

“The Trumpet Shall Sound” from MESSIAH

G. F. Handel (1685 – 1759)

arr. Hal H. Hopson

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“Andante Maestoso” from SYMPHONY #3 (“Organ”)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)

arr. Arnold Sherman

CALL TO WORSHIP

We thought you were dead. We thought the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

But this is it:

the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one phrase describes it all:

Alleluia!

Jesus is risen!

We thought you had said your final word. We thought those with the power had won. We thought that when you cried out, that was it.

But this is it:

the word breathes; the powers are defeated; the final cry was only the beginning, and one phrase says it all:

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

But this is it:

the story has just begun; the hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one phrase says it all:

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

This is the news:

Jesus is risen!

This is the moment

Jesus is alive!

This is the gospel

Jesus is with us!

We thought that when they crucified you, death had defeated life, and that was it.

But this is it:

Love is stronger than death, and one word says it all:

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

HYMN No. 232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!

Now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God’s love. Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God, at this holy time, we look upon an empty cross and offer thanks for the fullness of meaning it gives our lives. We gather as a joyous, resurrection people. More than a good story emerged that first Easter. You wrote into history the enduring good news of your steadfast love, your abundant mercy, your refusal to give in to death-dealing powers. More than a rock-hewn tomb was opened up. You opened wide the possibilities of faithful living by turning despair into exultation, by transforming sacrifice into triumph, and by changing the followers of a crucified carpenter into the disciples of the Risen Christ. More than one life was restored. New life was given to all humanity, for through the victory of Christ, burdens drop away, hatreds cease to bind us and even the most tenacious sins lose their deadly grip. More than words of praise are due to you, O God, so we pray with great hope that you will guide us toward service and lead us into all the ways of faithfulness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen, Indeed!”

Ed Cash, Keith & Kristyn Getty

arr. David Hamilton

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-19

HYMN No. 836

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

REFRAIN: Lift high the cross,

The love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. REFRAIN

All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brow the seal of Christ, who died. REFRAIN

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. REFRAIN

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Raise to the Crucified for victory. REFRAIN

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON

John 21:1-9

SERMON

“Easter as Reunion”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Festival Te Deum”

R. Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

EASTER AFFIRMATION

I believe in the resurrection.

I believe that Jesus died on the cross, and even the sun was darkened as all creation grieved the death of God’s eternal Son.

I believe in the resurrection.

I believe that Jesus’ body was placed in a borrowed tomb, where it lay for three days. I believe that the power of God, his heavenly Father, brought life to his dead body and rolled the stone way from the entrance so all might believe in the resurrection and see that Jesus was no longer there.

I believe in the resurrection.

I believe that there is no force in the universe that could stop, hinder, contain, or successfully oppose the risen Savior, my Lord, Jesus Christ. No tomb can be sealed so tightly – by Pilate or Herod, or Caesar himself. Jesus said he would lay down his life and take it up again and he did.

I believe in the resurrection.

I believe that Jesus lives today – as powerfully alive as he was two thousand years ago, and for all time past and yet to come. He empowers his followers to find their peace and joy and eternal hope in him.

I believe in the resurrection.

I believe that Jesus calls women, men, and children to join him in changing the world, one heart and life at a time, starting with their own. One day soon, he will come again. Then Jesus will establish his eternal kingdom where there will be no more soldiers or spears or sepulchers or battles or bleeding wounds or crosses.

I believe all this because:

I believe in the resurrection.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN NO. 556

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name.
Hosanna in the highest.

CONSECRATION & THE 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.

HYMN NO. 603

"O Lamb of God"

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us, O grant us your peace.

SHARING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your passion, death, and resurrection. May this Sacrament of your giving so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding"

MICHAEL

Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983), arr. Walter L.. Pelz

All the earth with joy is sounding:
Christ has risen from the dead!
He, the greater Jonah, bounding
From the grave, His three-day bed.
Wins the prize; Death's demise
Songs of triumph fill the skies.

Christ, the devil's might unwinding,
Leaves behind His borrowed tomb.
Stronger He, the strong man binding,
Takes disarms his house of doom:
In the rout Casting out
Pow'rs of darkness, sin, and doubt.

Jesus, author of salvation,
Shared in our humanity:
Crowned with radiant exaltation,
Now He shares His victory!
From His face Shines the grace
Meant for all our fallen race.

Praise the Lord, His reign commences
Reign of life and liberty
Paschal Lamb, for our offenses,
Slain and raised to set us free!
Evermore Bow before
Christ, the Lord of Life adore!

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“Hallelujah Chorus” from MESSIAH*

G. F. Handel

POSTLUDE

“An Easter Celebration”

arr. Joel Raney

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones & Noel Piercy

Chancel Choir, Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs

Chancel Handbell Choir

James De La Graza (I Trumpet), John Lambert (II Trumpet)

Rob Fournier (I Trombone), Frederico Perez (Bass Trombone)

Jessica Goodson, Flute

Jesse Gerbasi, Timpani & Skyler Fortgang, Percussion

John Lenis, Bass

Ray Liptak, AV Engineer



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