

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

**Says Who?**

## **As We Gather**

When Isaiah wrote about God's plans in terms of a feast, people may have wondered, "Says who?" The prophecy wasn't clear, and the resurrection of Jesus was still centuries in the future. If the women at the tomb decided to tell someone later, they might not have been believed. But today's Epistle includes a list of those who did hear and see Jesus Himself, including Paul, who had persecuted the church. We are here because untold millions of our brothers and sisters heard God's Word, came to faith, and couldn't keep the news to themselves. Who told you? Whom will you tell? And if anyone asks, "Says who?" invite them to join us in worship to hear for themselves.

## PREPARATION

### **Opening Sentences**

*Psalm 118:24*

**P** The light of Christ!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**P** All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:

**C** **Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.**

**P** Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:

**C** **Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.**

**P** Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!

**C** **Our Lord has kept all God's promises!**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

## Opening Songs

### Christ Is Risen (Matt Maher)

Let no one caught in sin remain  
Inside the lie of inward shame.  
But we fix our eyes upon the cross  
And run to Him who showed great love  
And bled for us.  
Freely You've bled for us.

#### Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead  
Trampling over death by death.  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.  
Christ is risen from the dead.  
We are one with Him again.  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin  
You bowed to none but heaven's will.  
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,  
No burden great can hold You down.  
In strength, You reign,  
Forever, let Your church proclaim.

#### *Chorus*

#### (Bridge)

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light;  
The glory of God has defeated the night.  
Singing, O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?

O church, come stand in the light  
Our God is not dead,  
He's alive, He's alive.

*Chorus (2x)*

Rise up from the grave

CCLI License #174564 CCLI Song #5242683  
Matt Maher | Mia Fieldes

## **Because He Lives (Amen) (Chris Tomlin)**

I believe in the Son  
I believe in the Risen One  
I believe I overcome  
By the power of His blood

### *Chorus*

Amen amen  
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives  
Amen amen  
Let my song join the one that never ends  
(Because He lives)

### *Verse 2*

I was dead in the grave  
I was covered in sin and shame  
I heard mercy call my name  
He rolled the stone away

### *Chorus 2*

Amen amen  
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives  
Amen amen  
Let my song join the one that never ends

### *Bridge*

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone  
I know He holds my life  
My future in His hands  
*Chorus 2x*

Ending

Because He lives  
Because He lives

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**Invocation**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**Apostolic Greeting**

- P** The Grace of our Savior JESUS CHRIST, The Love God our Heavenly Father.  
The Peace of God the Holy Spirit, Be With You All!  
**C** And also with you!

**Confession and Absolution**

- P** We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Rejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed! In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus

Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## WORD

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us.

**C** Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit;

**P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 25:6–9*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup>And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

**P** Christ has risen from the dead.

**C** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

**P** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**C** He has put all things under His feet.

### Epistle

*1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

<sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Holy Gospel

*Mark 16:1–8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early

on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup>And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Song of the Day

### The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

#### Chorus

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;  
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;  
All who gather here by grace Draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Chorus

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;  
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Chorus*

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**Sermon**

Robert O. Bartz, Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) Pastor

MESSAGE THEMES: Solving the Easter Puzzle

THE TOMB IS EMPTY...JESUS HAD RISEN...JESUS IS ALIVE!

GOSPEL ACCOUNTS OF THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:1-13

Luke 24:1-49

John 20+21

MESSAGE THOUGHTS

Clues and Hints...Imagination Required...Guided by the Holy Spirit

Follow the Movement of Mary Magdalene.

How many Trips did Mary M make to the Tomb?

Did any one actually see JESUS come out of the tomb?

The "Same Old, Same Old Message" is still the Greatest Message...Ever"!

**Catechism**

*The Second Article*

**C** I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ,

**I** true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,

**II** and also true man, born of the virgin Mary,

**C** is my Lord,



- I** *who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;*
- II** *not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,*
- C** **that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. He lives to intercede for us before the Father. With confidence, let us present to God our petitions for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus. For the holy Christian Church throughout the world, that it may be found without fault at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all believers in the Lord Jesus that their lives may testify to His resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, that a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those in positions of public trust in all levels of government, that they may serve justice and promote the welfare and dignity of every person, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who suffer because of poverty, persecution, or sickness, [*especially . . .*], and all others we name in our hearts [*silence*], that they may know the healing power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who grieve because of the death of their loved ones, [*especially . . .*], that through the sure hope of the resurrection of Christ, God would wipe away the tears from their eyes and give them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth God's glory in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who come this day to the feast of our Lord's body and blood, that their faith be strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Offering:** If you were prepared to bring an offering today, you may leave it as you exit the sanctuary. Member/Visitor and Prayer Request cards may be left with your offering as well. Thank you

## SACRAMENT

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand Your love or comprehend eternity, we lift our voices in thanksgiving and pray You to strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as Your witnesses.
- C** **Give us opportunity, use our gifts, and move us by Your Holy Spirit to tell the news of Jesus' victory over death each day that You give us for loving service.**
- P** Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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 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 and ever. Amen.

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

# Distribution Songs

## How Deep The Father's Love

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He would give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

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## **Death Was Arrested**

### Verse 1

A lone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in  
When death was arrested and my life began

### Verse 2

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains  
My orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested and my life began

### Chorus:

Oh Your grace so free washes over me  
You have made me new now life begins with You  
It's your endless love pouring down on us  
You have made us new now life begins with You

Verse 3

Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more  
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore  
He cancelled my debt and He's called me His friend  
When death was arrested and my life began

*Chorus*

Verse 4

Our savior displayed on a criminal's cross  
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested and my life began

*Chorus*

Oh we're free free for ever we're free  
Come join the song of all the redeemed  
Yes we're free free for ever amen  
When death was arrested and my life began

Oh we're free free for ever we're free  
Come join the song of all the redeemed  
Yes we're free free for ever amen  
When death was arrested and my life began

When death was arrested and my life began  
When death was arrested and my life began

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**Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Song

### My Redeemer Lives

I know he rescued my soul  
His blood has covered my sins  
I believe, I believe

My shame he's taken away  
My pain is healed in his name  
I believe, I believe

I'll raise a banner, cause my Lord  
Has conquered the grave  
My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives  
My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives  
*Repeat all from beginning*

You lift my burden, I'll rise with you  
I'm dancing on this mountain top  
To see your kingdom come

(acapella with a clap) My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives  
My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives  
(with instruments) My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives  
My redeemer lives, my redeemer lives

## Dismissal

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**P** Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Acknowledgments

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