

JESUS OF NAZARETH
EASTER: HE HAS RISEN!
MATTHEW 28:1-15
4-12-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light later.

Reflect

Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project *not* to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about...The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom...It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. NT Wright

Welcome

Happy Easter! The brightest day of the liturgical year has dawned! While Jesus' death and resurrection are to be celebrated weekly throughout the year, we have the opportunity to pay particular attention to it these last few days. May the magnificent contrast between the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion and the light of Jesus' resurrection bring the miraculous picture of the gospel into greater focus and clarity.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a game-changer.

Where crucifixion unsettles us, resurrection stabilizes us.

Where crucifixion causes unease, resurrection brings us assurance.

Where crucifixion shows us the cost of God's love, resurrection shows us the power of God's love.

Where crucifixion brings death, resurrection brings life.

Where crucifixion brings sorrow, resurrection bring joy.

Where crucifixion brings darkness, resurrection brings light.

Candle Lighting – Light the candle as a symbol of Jesus being the life and light of the world.

Call to Christ

On this Easter morning of now done darkness we lift our hearts with praise, we open our lives with joy! We thank you for our Savior, the Light of the world who has brought death to death, and life to life. We come into your presence with singing, our hearts echoing the chorus of the ages, "Hosanna! Alleluia forever and ever! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!



Song: King Of Kings -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha7dZsGA8Uw>

*In the darkness, we were waiting, without hope, without light.
'Til from heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes,
To fulfill the law and prophets; to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt.
Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one!
God of glory, Majesty. Praise forever to the King of kings.
To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost.
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross.
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died.
Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one!
God of glory, Majesty. Praise forever to the King of kings.
And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath.
'Til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death!
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe.
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.
And the church of Christ was born. Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His name; in His freedom I am free!
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me, ohh.*

Psalm of Praise: Psalm 116 – This Psalm is a great blend of Good Friday and Easter. Life is hard but God has overcome in Christ. He is bigger than life. Furthermore, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the death of his saints is precious in God's eyes. Why? Because death does not have the final say. Salvation and eternal life in Christ does. Love and life wins in Jesus!

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars." What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!



Song: Raise A Hallelujah -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfEZQe9nCaI>

*I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies.
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief.
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody.
I raise a hallelujah, Heaven comes to fight for me.
I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm.
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar.
Up from the ashes, hope will arise.
Death is defeated, the King is alive.
I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me.
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee.
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery.
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me.
Sing a little louder in the presence of my enemies.
Sing a little louder; louder than the unbelief.
Sing a little louder; my weapon is a melody.
Sing a little louder; heaven comes to fight for me.*

Song: Alive -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d0zArHuSzo>

*My heart of stone was dead to You;
Asleep within a world that scorned its maker;
Until You breathed into my soul and I woke up to You.
My glorious Savior. You became my all.
You became my all!
Now I am alive, I am alive in You!
You are alive, You are alive in me!
You called my name, and raised me from the dead.
Now I am alive, I am alive in You!
In You my life's completely new;
I'm blameless in Your eyes.
Because of Calvary the Father welcomes me with joy!
Your Spirit makes me know your great love for me.
Jesus, You're my all. Jesus, You're my all!
Now I am alive, I am alive in You!
You are alive, You are alive in me!
You called my name, and raised me from the dead.
Now I am alive, I am alive in You!
Bought with a price that cannot be measured;
Chosen before all time.
You are my joy, my prize, and my treasure!
Jesus, You are my life!*



Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

How is giving an expression of Christ-like love?

You can give by sending your offering to the church (P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361) or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.

Youth Celebration – Adults – read this thinking of the many young disciples of Jesus at our church:

Youth of CCRC, you are loved by God and this church. As you continue your worship at home this morning with your family, we pray that God will grow your faith in the love and knowledge of Jesus and that you will never stop seeking first the kingdom of God and doing his will each day.

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew 28:1-15 – have a youth read if possible

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

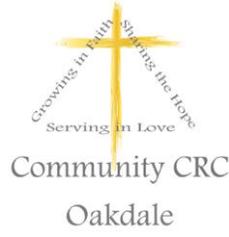
Gospel Message: He Has Risen! (Death Is Defeated)

Resurrection = ***Life after life after death*** (say together and out loud) = the conquering of death. Note:

- Lazarus did not experience resurrection because he died again. He did experience life after death.
- Jesus is the only one who has ever experienced resurrection (life after life after death)
- Those in Christ will be bodily resurrected when he comes again
- Those who have already died in Christ will also be physically resurrected when he come again

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that death is defeated!

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have hope! We are not only forgiven of our sins and declared righteous in Christ through his perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross, but we also have been “re-created” in Christ, born again, and new creations of his through the resurrection. We are “resurrected” to eternal life in him. Death does not have any power over us and does not have the final say. Death is now a doorway and no longer a dead end for disciples of Jesus. Furthermore, we are new



creations in Christ now, before we are bodily resurrected. We have been born again and are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit. This is why we sometimes say that we live in the already but not yet. We have already been saved and raised with Christ but we still wait for our resurrection bodies and a new heaven and a new earth to live with Christ and fellow believers forever.

Alleluia! Death is defeated! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

All people need hope. Living in the “already and not yet” tension as disciples of Jesus is challenging. It’s challenging because there are competing hopes to place our faith in: money, success, health, happiness, approval, comfort, material things etc. It is challenging because sometimes our hope is focused on the wrong thing. A disciple’s hope is not just a hope to get through this pandemic; not just a hope to get back to weekly worship; not just a hope to not get sick, die or pass it on to someone who does; not just a hope to have enough food or drink or toilet paper (sorry – couldn’t resist) or money. These hopes are good but temporary. We need the eternal hope of Jesus Christ that extends beyond this life into the life to come as the foundation and focus of all other hopes. Without the resurrection, our faith and hope are in vain.

Alleluia! Death is defeated! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

For disciples of Jesus, the hope of future bodily resurrection is grounded in the past resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus is our hope – not health, not wealth, not security, not comfort. Our bodies will die but those in Christ will receive new and better bodies when he returns. The wealth of the world is incomparable to the inheritance we have and will have in Christ! Earthly securities are always breached but the security we have in Christ can never be compromised in any way. The comforts of this world are mud pies in the slums compared to sand castles of joy and delight on the beach in Jesus now and infinitely more in the age to come. But even more important than these benefits, we get to bodily be with Jesus! Talk with him; hug him; see his smile, hear his laugh, touch him and be touched by him...Thus, our hope is in him: Jesus, the one who was crucified. Jesus, the one who died. Jesus, the one who was buried. Jesus, the one who passed through death and was resurrected. Jesus, the one who ascended to heaven. Jesus, the one who will come to judge the living and the dead. Jesus, the sovereign King and loving Lord of creation and creature! Jesus our risen Savior and Lord!

Alleluia! Death is defeated! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Note: There are two responses to Jesus’ resurrection:

1. Worship – vv. 8-9
2. Conspiracy – vv. 11-15

May our lives be lives of worship to Jesus! May we recognize and repent when we undermine our witness of Jesus and act more like the religious leaders against him. May we, by the Holy Spirit live out our Easter identity as new creations in Christ, full of hope to be with Christ and for our future inheritance & resurrection bodies. May we have a cruciform (crucifixion shaped) faith that runs deep; may we have a resurrection hope that abundantly overflows and may we have a gospel love that unconditionally builds up those around us: family, neighbors, friends, strangers, co-workers and those in need.

Alleluia! Death was arrested! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Song: Death Was Arrested -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin.
Lost without hope with no place to begin.

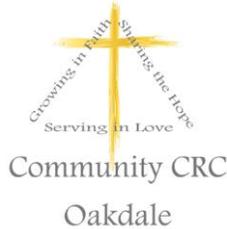


Your love made a way to let mercy come in.
When death was arrested and my life began.
Ash was redeemed only beauty remains.
My orphan heart was given a name.
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance,
When death was arrested and my life began.
Oh, Your grace so free washes over me.
You have made me 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.
Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more.
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore.
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend.
When death was arrested and my life began.
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.
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.
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.
Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free!
Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes, we're free, free, forever amen!
When death was arrested and my life began.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Proclaiming (1 Corinthians 11:23b-25) – Paraphrased

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread and he broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

You can't have a resurrected Christ unless you first have a crucified Christ! A crucified Christ makes the resurrected Christ valuable. The resurrected Christ makes the crucified Christ valid.

Christ is both crucified and resurrected. One without the other is no longer Jesus of Nazareth.

Reflect together on Jesus of Nazareth, crucified and resurrected, our living Savior and Lord!

Song: Because He Lives -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

Note: “amen” means, “I believe this is true!” or, “Make it so! or “Yes!” or “True!”

I believe in the Son. I believe in the risen One.

I believe I overcome by the power of His blood.

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.

I was dead in the grave. I was covered in sin and shame.

I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away.

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, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, every fear is gone.

I know He holds my life, my future in His hands.

Amen, Amen! I'm alive, I'm alive

Because He lives! Amen, Amen!

Let my song join the one that never ends.

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.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father...

You loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Jesus' resurrection, every day. Let us have hearts of gratitude for your defeat of sin and death in Christ. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation in Christ. Empower and equip us through the Holy Spirit to walk in that amazing grace and share the hope we have in Christ - for your glory and our joy. Amen.