

Friday, 4/21

Come to the prayer meeting *this morning at 6:30*

Read **Matthew 28:1-10.**

Meditate on the words, "He is not here; He is risen, just as He said."

Feast and rejoice for Christ's victory over the grave!

Pray asking the Holy Spirit to work in You the power of Christ's resurrection to overcome sins that are causing you to stumble in your walk with Christ. Ask Him to work powerfully in the life of our congregation. Beg Him to remove the blinders from the eyes of your coworkers, friends, and neighbors and allow them to see Christ as He truly is—the risen Lord. Rejoice together, that He has worked in us and ask the Lord to glorify His name by drawing many more in this region to Himself.

Saturday, 4/22

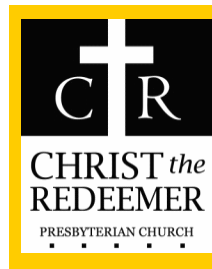
Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Matthew 6:5-15.**

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Sing the song *I Will Glory in My Redeemer.*

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| <p>1. I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death;
My only Savior before the holy Judge,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness.</p> | <p>2. I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness, my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.</p> |
| <p>3. I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer</p> | <p>Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.</p> |

Pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. We draw near to You with holy reverence and yet confidence in Christ, coming as beloved children needy to You our Father who is ready to help as we pray together. Enable us to glorify You in all that we do. Bring Your kingdom here now. We ask that You would draw men and women, boys and girls to Yourself and so extend Your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Make us joyfully obedient as the angels are, but even more so as Your children. Give us this day our daily bread. Provide for our needs and help us to be grateful. We promise to praise You for Your provision; enable us to keep that promise. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. We know that just as we know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more You forgive us our sin and give us all good things in Christ. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. We ask that You would either keep us from temptation or deliver us from it when it comes. For Your is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."



GOING AHEAD OF US

Sermon notes from 4/16/06

Easter Sunday

Matthew 27:62-28:15

Rev. Douglas Warren

Outline

- The Credentials of the King**—*Who is Jesus?* Focus during Advent
1:1-4:11 Genealogy, Virgin Birth, adoration by Magi, rescue out of Egypt, baptism, temptation and purity all point to His spotless resume as King.
- The King's Deeds and Words**—*What He Did and Said to Show that He is King*
4:12-25:46 The kingdom of the prophesied King begins, receives its orders as He reveals mysteries and His authority while at the same time facing conflict
- The Death and Resurrection of the King**—focus during Lent
 - 26:6-13 Alabaster jar—preparing for sacrificial death
 - 26:14-30 Jesus, Judas, and Communion—betrayed at His own table
 - 26:31-46 Gethsemane—facing the reality of death
 - 26:47-56 Peter's sword—two ways of fighting death
 - 26:57-68 Sanhedrin trial—a mockery of death
 - 26:69-27:10 Peter & Judas—the hope of resurrection
 - 27:11-61 Crucifixion—the death of the King
- 27:62-28:15 Resurrection—the King's victory for His brothers**
28:16-20 Great Commission

Message

Central to all of Christianity is this event—the resurrection of Jesus. If true, all the claims of His eternal kingdom are shown to be real. If not, then it is just a hoax, not even worth our time. Matthew tells us that not only is it true, but that Jesus rose as our elder brother to secure our resurrection.

- I. **Ever Present Skeptics**
- II. **Rendezvous in Galilee**
- III. **The Journey from Faith to Sight**

Application

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

1. What makes you feel most secure? Why? What makes you feel least secure?
2. Why did Jesus have to go before us in resurrection?
3. How do we know we can follow Him? In what is our confidence?
4. What does it mean to see Jesus as He really is?

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

Christ the Lord is risen today! If ever there was reason to sing, the resurrection of Jesus is it. As we continue to see in Matthew's gospel, Jesus is the reigning King who has come to redeem His people. Knowing this makes us want to know more and live it out. So come, let us read the wondrous work that Christ has done. Let us study, meditate upon, and sing of our elder brother who has gone before us and bids us come and follow. Let us celebrate and extend His grace.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday, 4/16

Read today's sermon passage: **Matthew 27:62-28:15.**

Discuss the sermon. Why does Jesus go before us?

Sing the song *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*.¹

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Pray for these alleluias to be the true song of your heart. Pray also that they would become the song of your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and relatives. Ask the Lord to fill the Portland area with His praise.

Monday, 4/17

Read **Isaiah 9:1-7.** How did Christ's rise and return to Galilee with the disciples signal the fulfillment of this?

Rejoice for the new life we have in Christ and His eternal kingdom.

Pray for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to save them.

Extend His grace to someone you know today. Lovingly and thoughtfully express to them in word and deed the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday, 4/18

Read **Hebrews 2:5-18** and consider how Christ has freed us from death and made us siblings as His people.

Meditate on this reality, Jesus "is not ashamed to call us brothers."

Feast in celebration of Christ's great grace in freeing us from sin and death.²

Pray, "Eternal God, we praise You that Your glory has dawned upon us and brought us into this day of resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold Your Son and that He conquered death, risen to rule over all powers of this earth. We praise You that He summons us into new life, to follow Him with joy and gladness. By Your Spirit life us from doubt and despair and set our feet in Christ's way, that our lives may be signs of His life and that all we have may show forth His love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to You, our God, forever and ever. Amen."

Sing the song *Majesty*.³

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory,
Honor and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own, His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high

The name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty.
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Wednesday, 4/19

Read **Colossians 1:15-23** and consider what it means that Jesus is "the first born from the dead."

Discuss how someone is reconciled to God according to this passage.

Rejoice if you have been made holy in God's sight through Christ's sacrifice.

Pray for the congregation of CTR that we would be transformed by this gospel and nothing else. Pray that we too would proclaim this good news.

Sing *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*.

Thursday, 4/20

Read **Ephesians 1:15-23** and discuss the power of God in Christ's resurrection

Meditate on "the hope to which He has called" us.

Pray, "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You."

[Silence]

"You have lavished Your grace upon us in our Redeemer."

[Silence]

"We worship and adore You who alone in all Your incomparably great power and grace. Receive our worship for Christ's sake."

[Silence]

"We long to know Christ better. We cling to Your promises to reveal Yourself. Fill us with Your Spirit. Renew Your life within us."

Sing *Majesty*.

¹ *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* was written by Charles Wesley (1739) and is in the public domain.

² See the website for an explanation of feasting in response to the gospel www.MainePCA.org.

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⁴ Steve & Vikki Cook ©2001 PDI Worship (ASCAP) CCLI License No. 1958155