

Worship on April 4, 2021 –Easter Sunday

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP # 247 – Christ the Lord is risen today
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:42-51
- Sermon: Walking Tall to the Cross
- Communion

We Respond

- Offering (invitation and prayer first)
- Offertory Hymn – BOP # 248 – at the dawning of salvation

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

- . Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now and those who are worshipping God through this video. This is Easter Sunday. April 4th, 2021. Christ is risen! Jesus is resurrected. Let us worship and praise him.
- . Today, we will have the Lord Table during our worship. So, please prepare your own elements.
- . For Bible study with discussion questions, please stay after the worship. We will share and pray for each other.
- . If anyone wants to volunteer to participate in worship, please let me know.
- . Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use us and our gifts for his kingdom.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Christ is risen! **All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: He was dead and now he lives. **All: Hallelujah, Christ is risen!**

One: The tomb is empty. He was dead and now he lives. The journey begins again.

Come, let us follow him. and let us start the new journey with prayer:

All: God of life, you came to use and you redeem all things. And now we give ourselves to you and continue your work of good news and reconciliation in the world. Give us the strength to follow you on the mission you have called us to. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Praise song – BOP #247 – Christ the Lord is risen today

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of life and love, Maker of all things visible and invisible; on the first day of creation, you spoke, and out of chaos came life; out of darkness came light. On the first day of the week, you raised Christ from the tomb, and out of death came new life. On the first day of this week, you call us to gather in Christ's name, to rejoice in the power of resurrection and claim your gift of new life in the Spirit. Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto you, O God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, this day and always.

Almighty God, you raised Jesus from the grave, and shattered the power of sin and death. But we confess that we remain captive to fear, and bound to habits that hold us back from enjoying new life in Christ. Indifference deadens our hearts, and we seek comfort rather than justice. We cling to hurt, resentment, and disappointment and refuse the freedom that comes with forgiveness. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to the joy and new possibility promised to us in Christ, our Risen Lord.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

Prayer for Illumination:

Spirit of power and new possibility, through the scriptures, open our minds to understanding, our hearts to loving, and our wills to carrying out the mission of the Risen Christ, God's Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:42-51

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." 45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." 48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49

David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: Walking Tall to the Cross

Today's title is "Walking Tall to the Cross"

Today is Resurrection Sunday. Jesus had to carry his own cross. Beaten, rejected, suffered from hunger and thirst. Tired, but had to carry his cross to the place where he was crucified. His footsteps were powerless. His legs were heavy. Every step, he had to push himself to his physical limit. He fell. People mocked him, spat on him, cursed him. He was laid on the cross. The nails pierced his flesh. Pain. Screams. Soldiers put the cross upright. The weight of his body tortured him. He died because of the love for us.

Few days passed. Quiet time. Dark time. On the third day, Jesus was risen. He broke the chains of Death and sin. Now, no more animal sacrifice because Jesus was slaughtered for us in place of us. Jesus satisfied the justice of God, the wrath of God. Jesus opened the way of God's love pouring upon us. No obstacles between God and us because of Jesus.

Walking tall means that someone behaves in a way that shows that she or he has proud in themselves and in what they are doing. It's not someone stepping up of someone, but live as confident as they can.

Imagine Jesus crawling with this cross. Does it look like walking tall??



It is hard to say that Jesus is walking tall. He does not seem to be confident in what he is doing. Death, or the power of the enemies seems much powerful than Jesus.

I was reading 1 Samuel and observed David's attitude just before fighting the giant Goliath.

V45, "David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

A teenage boy said this in front of a warrior who was experienced and strong.



With a slingshot, David confronted the giant warrior. He is not to stand tall right now. Everyone else is standing down. All the soldiers of Israel was about to run away. They were there but they were afraid of Goliath.

When I read this, I thought of Jesus. Jesus with mere human body suffered before his crucifixion. The crowd and the religious leaders were the powerful force, like Goliath. Peter was afraid that he denied Jesus. And all the other disciples were the same. They could not stay with Jesus out of fear. David was not afraid of the man whether he was the best warrior or biggest and strongest fighter in the world. David was confident that the Lord God was with him and he only cared for God.

The attitude of David reminded me Jesus walking toward Calvary, where he died on the cross.

On this Resurrection Sunday, let us look back our lives. What are we afraid of? What holds us to live by faith? What hinders us to offer our lives to Jesus? Why can't we follow the steps of Jesus who gave us life? What is our life all about?

David, a young boy, did not care of anything, but God. His eyes were fixed on God alone. Jesus, when he walked the pathway with cross on his shoulder, did not look left or right, but straight to the love for us.

Walking Tall is the title of a movie. One man fights for the justice. Everyone got along with the wrong value, this man could not live with that. So, he fought for the right value. He stood for the righteousness. He walked tall for what he believed in.

When looking around the world surrounds us, what do we see and how are we feeling about it? What is church like these days? How are we doing as Christians in the world? Not many, including myself, is not walking tall with faith. Who's David in this present day? Who's follow the examples of Jesus?

Jesus is risen! Great! What does that mean to us?

We were given his life. We are saved. We have open path to God. Our sin and death are removed from us. SO... what...

So what...?

What we have left is our new life that is to follow Jesus. It is to stand tall with Jesus value.

WWJD WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

Now, is it outdated Christian movement?

No. I think it's outdated because not many people can live with it. Because many people gave up the Jesus-value. We are too comfortable with what this world offers to us. What this world gives us is too attractive. It's too good.

Last year, on Easter Sunday, I preached on perspective. Mary was looking for the body of Jesus in Jesus' tomb. But the grave was open and his body was missing. Crying sadly, Mary didn't know what to do. At the moment, Jesus came to her. As soon as she saw him, she asked Jesus,

“If you know where my Jesus went, please tell me.” **15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” (John 20:15)**

She was looking for Jesus' dead body and Jesus was standing right in front of Mary alive, but she could not recognize Jesus. Her passion and her desire and her love for Jesus blinded her.

What is holding us back? What blinds our eyes?

Jesus was risen! (PPT) Great! We have new life! Awesome!

This world gives us a lot of comfort! WOW!!

Let us not be fooled with the values from this world. Let us Stand Tall and Walk Tall like Jesus, like David, like Paul, and like the people who lived their lives in faith.

On this beautiful Easter Sunday, let us give our hearts to God. Let us make our minds to follow Jesus.

Let us pray.

Risen Jesus, we praise you! We lift your name on high! Because of your love for us, we had to endure all the suffering and death. Because of your love for us, you had to walk tall the path of pain and shame. You are a great God, powerful. God, Creator God. But, you had to limit yourself and became helpless sacrificial animal for us. Thank you. We thought about David who lived in faith. Like his example, we want to live by faith. Give us courage and give us wisdom, so we can follow your steps. We are fixing our eyes on to you. You are our Lord and Master. Lead our steps. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

Christ is risen! Our Risen King, Jesus said, I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never be hungry, and those who believe in me will never be thirsty. No one who comes to me will I drive away. Let us celebrate the Risen Lord's love and invitation for us to come to him and be with him.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) ***(Please say BOLD print together)***

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, blessed are you, gracious God, for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; by his sacrifice he has taken away the sin of the world. By his resurrection he has won for us eternal life. We praise you God, for by your mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and that does not faded away. Mighty God, heavenly Sovereign, we worship you. With angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we worship and adore you as we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: We praise you, most holy God. Because of your love, you had to give up your son. Because you wanted to make us live, you had to sacrifice yourself. On this day, we celebrate the Risen Lord. His perfect sacrifice destroyed the power of sin and death! Hallelujah! We offer to you our sincere praise and worship. Now we celebrate, with great joy, the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ. (BREAD)

“This is the body of Christ broken for you.” (Let us take it)

When we bless the cup, it is a sharing in the blood of Christ (CUP)

“This is the blood of Christ shed for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you Jesus for your love for us, for your sacrifice for us. We remember your love and service for us. We worship and praise you. This meaningful day, thank you for the opportunity to have Communion. You are the host of the table and we are coming to you with grateful hearts. Because we have you in our body, because we have your blood in our blood, let us live just like you. We want to be like you. We want to follow your steps. We want to show that you are being the KING of our lives and this whole world.

We remember our members in our prayers. There are people who are experiencing difficulties in daily lives. We know that you are listening to their cries. Place your hands upon them, let your power be upon them and let your healing be with them. Help their situations and strengthen their hearts and faith.

We offer this 28 day special lockdown upon your hands. As the weather gets warmer and because of the long period of lockdown like lifestyle, we long to go out. Yes, we really do. But, in order to overcome this pandemic, we know what we need to do. Help us avoid going out and give us patience and power to get rid of this virus. Let the leaders have their knees before you and have wisdom from you. Through this world crisis, let us learn humble hearts. And let us come and stand before you. You are the risen Lord and you are the King of the whole universe. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. On Easter Day, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising. As we present our gifts to God this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God of Resurrecting Hope, we thank you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ, and what his gift has cost. Bless the gifts we bring so they may help spread

the hope and joy we feel today in the world you love so dearly. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offering – BOP # 248 – At the dawning of salvation

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. What is our foundation of our lives? Where does our confidence come from? Is this our own possession? Is this our own power? Ability? NO. It is the resurrection of Jesus. It gives us life, it gives us meaning, it gives us power. Jesus is risen. So we can walk tall in this world.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. **What was the biggest hindrance I have experienced?**
2. **How did I overcome? Or what was my response?**
3. **What would be the realistic way to follow the example of David?**