

Worship on April 9, 2023 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Robert Revington)

Easter Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 247 Christ the Lord is risen today
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 251 Christ is alive

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 20:1-18
- Sermon: Unexpected + Prayer
- Hymn BOP 252 He is Lord
- Communion + The Apostle's Creed

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 425 We praise you, O God vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 258 Thine be the glory

We Serve

- Benediction

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

Responsive Call to Worship

L: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

L: The tomb is empty.

P: Life has defeated death!

L: Rising from the grave, Jesus brings life to all the wrong places.

P: Christ lives where death has ruled.

L: Rising from the grave, Jesus brings life to all the wrong people.

P: Christ welcomes those who are often overlooked.

L: Christ's resurrection means that we are no longer lost in the wilderness.

P: He provides us with a living hope and travels with us to places where death had once prevailed.

L: The world has been turned upside down.

P: Life has defeated death! Hope has overwhelmed despair! Joy has conquered gloom!

Praise song – BOP 247 Christ the Lord is risen today

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of resurrecting power, we are caught up in the joy of Easter and your love fills us with expectation. Death will never overcome the life, and the powers of chaos will never overcome your loving intentions for the cosmos. Just as Jesus spoke to Mary in the garden that first Easter morning, you call each of us by name because you love us.

So we praise you for the hope you have given us, your powerful love and your promise of new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. So may we give our love for you gladly, today and every day, as we sing with our hearts full of praise.

God of tender mercy, we confess that faith doesn't come easy every Easter.

When we face loss in our own lives, sorrow can weigh us down. Our challenges can feel like a stone too heavy to roll away. Forgive us, O God. Let the hope of new life in Christ assure us that the power of your love that raised Jesus will never let us go.

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

Friends in Christ, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Dear friends at St. Andrew's, Christ has laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us. Let us rejoice in his redeeming, resurrecting love as we worship our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ with grateful hearts.

Let us share our peace in the Lord. May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share this joy of the Risen Lord.

Prayer for children and youth

Christ is risen. Christ is risen. Christ is risen. Thank you. Thank you for the blood. Thank you for the sacrifice. Thank you for the resurrection. Because Jesus lives now, we have tomorrow. Because Jesus is risen, we are here to worship. Because Jesus saved us, we have the hope for our children and youth. Gracious God, teach our next generation your value. You are the living God. You are the mighty God. You are the Sovereign God. You are the Creator God. You are the only One who are worthy of our praise and worship. Help us sincerely worship you and let the children and youth witness you through our worship and through our daily lives. This is the time for pray for our next generation, but we becoming true worshiper is the best way to raise them. It is the only way to hand down our faith to them. Lord God, they are the future of your church. Raise them up with true faith and love for you. Use us to prepare our future hope. All praise and worship and honour are due to you. Thank you. In Jesus' precious and glorious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 251 Christ is alive

Prayer for Illumination:

Spirit of power and new possibility, open our minds to understanding, our hearts to loving, and our wills to carrying out the mission of the Risen Christ, who is God's Living Word. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

First reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (refrain 1)

Third reading: John 20:1-18

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Unexpected

Today's sermon title is **“Unexpected”**

There was something people were 100% certain. They were sure that Jesus was dead. And they were 100% sure that dead person cannot be alive.

After the burial of Jesus, on Friday afternoon, what would Mary do? Where did she go? What would she do when she's at home when she lost the most loved one?

Most likely, she would go where her most loved one is. It is not a coincident that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark.

On Friday late at night, she would have to go home because she could not stay outside. So, she came back home. Stayed up all night, still in dark, early in the morning, she would go to the tomb and spend a whole day there. This is my imagination, but this would be what Mary Magdalene might have done. Still in sadness, when it's still dark, she came out to the tomb again. BUT, the stone was removed. She might not be able to take a closer look at the tomb. But, she kind of saw that the body of Jesus was not there. She assumed that the body was stolen.

The two disciples were shocked at Mary's news. They ran to the tomb of Jesus. Empty. What?! **The linen graveclothes were left there. <<linen picture>>** It is a very strange thing if the body of Jesus was stolen, who would unwrap the graveclothes as they steal the body? And why?

In this mysterious Jesus-body-missing-case, we find very hopeful word: believe.

V8, **“8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;”** The other disciple, John, noticed that the linen wrappings of Jesus' body was left there in the empty tomb; **and he believed.**

When we read it, we are relieved. Ah, finally, he realized that Jesus was risen. But, v9 and 10, **V9 “for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.”**

What does he believe again? John did not understand the scripture.

The scripture was not what he believed. No one from today's scripture knew that Jesus was risen. **Then, what did John believe?**

We need to focus on v7, what John saw. **“and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.”<<linen picture>>**

What would John realize from the unwrapped Jesus' graveclothes, especially head covering? **Jesus did not need them anymore.**

John 11, “38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ 40 Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”

In the case of Lazarus, when he was risen from the dead, he came out with his wrappings on. Someone had to unwrap him. The implication is this. **The graveclothes for Lazarus were removed only for temporarily.** Eventually, Lazarus would need graveclothes later when he died again.

But, for Jesus, his graveclothes were removed completely. That is, **Jesus does not need them anymore because Jesus did not die from then on.**
Lazarus was resuscitated. But Jesus was resurrected.

The Bible specifically mentioned two kinds of wrappings: body and head or face. **<<linen picture>>** When Moses encountered God, his face was shining like the sun because of the glory of God. Moses needed face veil when he was with people. **The face wrapping of Jesus was removed from him.** That is, Jesus comes to the presence of God without any veil on his face. **That is, Jesus does not have to hide his true identity to the world. The glory of God would be seen to the whole world through Jesus Christ.** So, what John believed was not that Jesus was resurrected, but Jesus was ascended.

V17, Jesus said to Mary, **“Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”**

This shows Jesus is going back to the Father. But Jesus referred God his Father as well as her Father. This is the fulfillment of two declarations from the first chapter of John’s gospel. **John 1:14, “the Word became flesh.”** This Word is from Genesis 1, in the beginning, when God created, he spoke the Word. **Jesus is Word who created the world.** And Jesus came to the earth and lived among us. **This shows where Jesus came from. “the Word became flesh.”**
John 1:12, “to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.” This is why Jesus said, **my Father and your Father, my God and your God.**

John’s belief of ascension is to be extended to the promise of resurrection.

So, the new life of Jesus is showing us now is different from the “new life” of Lazarus. It is not the new life lasting for some time or have to face death again, but it is the life living with God in God’s presence. And this does not have any expiration date. **This new life is eternal.**

John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus wants us to know that through his resurrection we are given the right to become the children of God.

Because Jesus was risen, we are the children of God who have eternal life. Our identity was once and for all changed.

We are standing in front of Jesus like Mary eager to find the dead body of Jesus.
But what we found is risen Jesus and our new identity as the children of God.

Because Jesus lives, we have life. Because he lives, we have new identity.
As I conclude today's message, I want to share a praise song, **Because He lives.**

Hymn 252 He is Lord

Communion At The Lord's Table This is the time for Communion at the Lord's Table. It is the table of Jesus Christ and everyone is welcome. On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later while he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. May Christ's presence be made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

As we gather at this communion table, let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I 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 again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I 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.
Amen.**

(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: 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! How wonderful are your ways, almighty God. How marvellous is your name, O Holy One. You alone are God. Therefore, with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises:**

(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: Faithful God, we offer you our praise and thanks as we return to you these holy gifts of bread and wine. Remembering our Lord's command to take and eat, we ponder the mystery of his promise that in his meal we are joined to him and to one another as a holy people uniting heaven and earth.

We offer you our praise and thanks for Jesus Christ, who took flesh and lived among us, was baptized for our sins, taught us your way of truth, loved us in our lovelessness and died that we may have life.

And 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: God of grace and power, you invite us to share in mysteries that are beyond our understanding; in simple trust we seek the transforming power of your Holy Spirit on this assembly of your people, on these words and actions, on this bread and wine, in order that, by the miracle of your grace, we may be united to Christ and to one another – one in body, one in spirit, one in faith. This sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer to you, gracious God, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to all eternity. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you O Jesus Christ, for this feast of life! We are fed by your love. We are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy and love. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and to love as we have been loved. Thank you God. All the glory and honour and praise are yours. We worship and adore you. Thank you for the life you laid on the cross. Thank you for the life that is yourself. And thank you for the life we have received from you.

Precious God the Father, we pray for the people who are in hardships like war or natural disasters or famine. He’s got the whole world in his hands. We sing and teach this song to children. He’s got the whole world in his hands. But, when we learn difficult situations around the world, we question. Sometimes, we are disappointed. Lord Jesus, for your beloved world, help us be your hands and feet. Because we are the children of God the Father, we are all brothers and sisters. When our siblings are in difficulties, we help. Help us love each other with the love we have received. Give us wisdom and courage to make your creation be more like you. May your be overflowing from us to our surroundings and to the whole world. Give us consistency.

In people’s hardships, God, we know that you are with them encouraging and comforting. Almighty God, change our hearts and help us follow your truth in our everyday life.

We remember our precious congregational members. You purchased each of us with your precious blood. This is the source of our value. This is why we are so precious. Your love is the foundation we built our lives upon. Jesus, you are our Solid Rock. You are our firm foundation which we are depend upon. Thank you for each other’s presence in our lives. Help us love each

other and help us support and help each other. So everyone may grow in you together. Be in our difficult situations and remind us that you are with us and you are helping us and you are holding our hands and walking with us. Fill our lives with you.

On this Easter day, thank you for calling us in your presence and thank you for the joy we share in your presence. Let this joy and happiness continue on in our daily lives and let this be displayed in our lives, so people might see your goodness through our lives. 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, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

The Doxology (BOP 425)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, this day we recognize how much you have given us in Christ Jesus, and what your gift has cost. Bless these gifts so they may offer the hope and joy we feel today to the world you love so dearly. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 258 Thine be the glory

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Jesus is risen! Jesus came to the earth for us. Jesus died for us. Jesus rose for us. Jesus is taking care for us. Jesus is for you. Jesus gave you his life. Jesus gave you freedom. Jesus gave us strength. Let us celebrate the new life we have from Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour!

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.