

An Order of Worship for the Home

The Second Sunday of Easter – April 19, 2020

Teaching through 1 Peter during the Easter season. (week 1, chapter 1)

This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak to one another and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can schedule a time to worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit www.calvaryslz.org to give online.

Invocation

Reader 1: He is risen!
Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Reader 1: All thanks and praise to God
Reader 2: Father, Son and Spirit
Together: Amen
Reader 2: He is risen!
Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Psalm 148

Notice how the psalm's call to praise begins far away and verse-by-verse comes closer.

¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!
³ Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created.
⁶ And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the Lord!

Confession & Absolution

Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in the fellowship. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered. (From the order of Compline, Lutheran Service Book p.254)

Christian Confessing: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Christian Responding: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Together: Amen

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. (John 20:23)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Message from Pastor Matt

Not a Rock

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)

There are stark differences between a corpse, a rock, and a newborn baby. One is dead; one is static; one is alive. The first is decomposing; the second is doing nothing; the third is growing. The dead body will produce a bad smell, and lots of germs you should be careful to avoid. The rock produces nothing bad or good. The baby will grow up to produce and nurture life beyond itself.

Last week, in my Easter message, I wrote about the expectation we would have for a dead body. We would expect a body to decay in the grave. Easter is amazing because that didn't happen to the body of Jesus. In fact, the opposite took place. Jesus rose to life! Jesus is alive!

By faith, this is the new life you have. This is the new life I have. But, I don't always look like I'm alive. If I'm honest, sometimes it looks as if I've been transformed from a corpse to a rock. I'm guessing you sometimes look like that too.

What I mean is this: I know that Jesus has pulled me out of sin. It's easy to think that this means the really bad stuff is gone. I'm no longer a corpse, and I no longer produce the smells and germs of a corpse. I'm not adding to the negative voices or

difficulties in this world. But, if that's as far as I allow Jesus to take me, I'm only a rock. I've allowed Jesus to radically transform me from a corpse to a rock?! I may not be dead, but I'm far from alive.

This is *not* the work of Jesus. This is a sad and sorry substitute. This is an exchange which the devil would prefer we make, and one he would gladly celebrate. Jesus wants so much more for you and I! He wants to make you alive!

The Apostle Peter emphasizes life when he points to what Jesus has done for us.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)

We're "born again" because that's how life begins. We have "a living hope" because this life of hope is so much better than a stationary rock.

If Jesus only died for you, maybe becoming a rock would be enough. But, Jesus also rose for you. He rose to new life so that you could be *alive!*

You are living in Christ. Living things grow. Living beings contribute to life for others.

And get this - only living things can cultivate more life. Rocks do not have babies. Rocks do not provide care for others. Life begets life. Life cares for life.

The life you have starts with Jesus, who is the firstborn of the new creation. His desire is to birth new life in you. He cares for this life. He's sent his Holy Spirit to nurture this new life.

Plus, just as someone alive in Christ shared this life with you, now you do the same. You share the life you have in Christ, and in turn it nurtures life in others. You give life. You care for life. You have life to share. That's something no rock has ever had.

In Christ who is alive, you too are living, growing and sharing life. Amen

Offering Prayer

If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.

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

Blessing (2 Corinthians 12:14)

Reader 1: He is risen!

Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Reader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reader 2: ...and the love of God

Reader 1: ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

Reader 2: ...and with you

Together: Amen

Reader 2: He is risen!

Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add others to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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