

RIVEROAKS REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17, 2022

10:45am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: "Resurrection Hymn Medley", Katherine Howard, violin; Jaden Lee, cello

Welcome and Announcements

Reflection

*Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!*
Job (chapter 19)

*Death is not from nature, but from man's sin.
The sword of death which could penetrate into our very hearts has been blunted.
It wounds nevertheless still, but without any danger; for we die, but by dying we enter into life.
Christ did not rise for himself alone; for he came,
that he might restore everything that had been ruined in Adam.*
John Calvin

Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.
David (Psalm 68:20)

Introit: "Christ Is Arisen", Handel, The Adult Choir

THE LORD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

Call to Worship: from Psalm 124, John 11, Colossians 1, 1 Corinthians 5, Revelation 5, 19

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: Who is the resurrection and the firstborn from the dead!

Minister: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us;

Congregation: Let us therefore celebrate the festival!

Minister: Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered!

Congregation: And the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!

Minister: Christ is risen!

Congregation: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluiah!

Hymn of Praise, No. 277: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth, reply. Alleluia!

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!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy siting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Sour 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!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!
Hail, the resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

THE LORD CLEANSSES US IN CHRIST

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:57-28:10

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. **28** ¹ 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. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Father, when our Lord Jesus rose from the grave, you declared for all to see that you had shattered the power of sin and death. We ask this morning that you would forgive the sin that so often entangles us, and the doubt and fear that prevents us from boldly serving you. Father, help us to trust your power to change our lives, that we might manifest the reality of Christ's resurrection in our daily living, and know the joy of abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. This we ask in the name of your son, our Savior Jesus ...*Silent and Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Pardon: from Acts 2, 16

Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.... Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Hymns of Faith, No. 267: “The Day of Resurrection!”

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav’ns be joyful, let earth her song begin;
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Invisible and visible, their notes let all things blend,
For Christ he Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

No. 295: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, triumphant o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious from the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and reigns on high;
He died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow’r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in pray’r and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow’rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime;
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: "Joy to the Heart"

Look there! the Christ, our Brother, comes resplendent from the gallows tree
and what he brings in his hurt hands is life on life for you and me.

[Refrain] Joy! Joy! Joy to the heart all in this good day's dawning!

Good Jesus Christ inside his pain looked down Golgotha's stony slope
and let the blood flow from his flesh to fill the springs of living hope. [Refrain]

Good Jesus Christ, our Brother, died in darkest hurt upon the tree
to offer us the worlds of light that live inside the Trinity. [Refrain]

Congregation and Choir:

Look there! The Christ, our Brother, comes resplendent from the gallows tree
And what he brings in his hurt hands is life on life for you and me.

[Refrain] Joy! Joy! Joy to the heart all in this good day's dawning!
Joy! Joy! Joy to the heart all in this good day's dawning! (repeat Refrain)

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15, selected

Preaching of God's Word: Pastor Tommy Lee

"Christ Is Risen! The Curse Is Destroyed"

Hymn of Preparation: "See, What A Morning"

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
borne in pain, paid in sacrifice, fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life,
stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till He appears, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
honor and blessing, glory and praise to the King
crowned with power and authority!

And we are raised with Him, death is dead,
love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with Him, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead! (repeat)

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

"Welcome, Happy Morning!"

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20, 21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is

pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Rejoicing: "Hallelujah Chorus" (see insert)

Postlude: "Toccata from Symphonie No. 5", Widor