

Good Shepherd Community Church
Proclaiming the God of Grace.
3rd Sunday Resurrection of Messiah Jesus



April 14, 2024

Acclamation

The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Greeting –

Shalom! Peace be with you!

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed.**

Alleluia! Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! —based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

Hymn – Worship Christ, the Risen King

Rise, O church, and lift your voices,
Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices;
resurrection anthems swell.

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the risen King!

2. See the tomb where death had laid him,
empty now, its mouth declares:
“Death and I could not contain him,
for the throne of life he shares.”

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the risen King!

3. Hear the earth protest and tremble,
see the stone removed with pow’r;
all hell’s minions may assemble,

but cannot withstand his hour.
He has conquered, he has conquered,
Christ the Lord, the risen King!

4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur,
scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
but the truth proclaims a wonder
thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, he is risen,
now receive the risen King!

5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus,
now we sing your victory;
sin or hell may seek to seize us,
but your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph,
worship Christ, the risen King!

Author - Jack Hayford

Invocation - Pastor Jeff Gregory

Hymn – **The Strife is O'er**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

2. The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

3. The three sad days have quickly sped;
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

4. He closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell:
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell.
Alleluia!

5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
TPH#366 Tune- Victory

Call to Confession

Since Jesus is the first fruits from the dead,
even the obstacle of death has been removed between us and God.

***If death no longer stands in our way,
we can be sure that our sin does not either.***

Let us confess our sins and claim the promise:
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prayer of Confession

Risen Lord,
by the witnesses we have seen the empty tomb,
and yet we sometimes act as if we have seen nothing.
Although we have been joined with Christ Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection,

and have his power and presence, we do not always walk in this reality. At times we give way to transgressions with the resulting guilt and fear. We forget the glorious, good news. Forgive us when we are quick to forget the Good News. Remind us by your Spirit and Word that we are **a people of resurrection**. Fill our hearts with your love that we might love you as we should and turn from sin and be renewed. Eliminate from us the fear of sin that we might tell this glad story - that Christ is risen, he is risen, indeed! This we pray in the name of your Name Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news of the Gospel: the tomb is empty! Our Lord and Savior has risen from the grave! That which has been dead is alive!

²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his (Abraham's) sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 4:23-25; Romans 5:1
On this basis I announce to you this day that through faith in his name our sins are forgiven! You have peace with God! **Alleluia! Amen!**

Profession of Our Faith

This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.
Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

—based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20

Hymn- He Lives in Us, The Christ Of God

He lives in us, the Christ of God,
his Spirit joins with ours;
he brings to us the Father's grace
with powers beyond our powers.
So when enticing sin grows strong,
and human nature fails,
God's Spirit in our inner self
fights for us, and prevails.

2. Our pangs of guilt and fears of death
are Satan's stratagems—
by Jesus Christ who died for us
God pardons; who condemns?
And when we cannot feel our faith,

nor bring ourselves to pray,
the Spirit pleads with God for us
in words we could not say.

3. God gave the Son to save us all
no greater love is known!
And shall that love abandon us
who have become Christ's own?
For God has raised him from the grave,
in this we stand assured;
so none can tear us from God's love
in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Author- Michel Perry Tune-Kingsfold

Scripture Readings

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. John 20:31

First Testament- Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain Yahweh of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord YAHWEH will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for Yahweh has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is Yahweh we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

New Testament- Acts 1:1-3

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

New Testament- 1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

Hymn- Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come, behold the wondrous mystery
in the dawning of the King:
he, the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come;

look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come, behold the wondrous mystery:
he the perfect Son of Man;
in his living, in his suffering,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
of the law—in him we stand.

3. Come, behold the wondrous mystery!
Christ the Lord upon the tree:
in the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory—
grace unmeasured, love untold!

4 . Come, behold the wondrous mystery:
slain by death, the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him—
praise the Lord: he is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance,
how unwavering our hope:
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when he comes.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery:
slain by death, the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him—
praise the Lord: he is alive!

Sermon Text- John 20:24- 31

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.

We Listen to the Word Expounded

Sermon- “Touch Me and See” by Wayne Conrad

Hymn of Response- “He Is Lord”

He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead
and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Service of Holy Communion

M: Jesus our Lord is risen from the dead.

P: He is seated at the Father’s right hand!

M: He has poured out his Spirit upon us his people.

P: Let us draw near to him at His Holy Table.

All: All glory to Christ, who died, who rose, and who is with us by his Spirit.

We read in Luke 24:30-31 that when the risen Jesus “...*was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.*”

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, even as you came to your disciples and broke bread for them so that they recognized your presence, may we also draw near to you today through this communion service. May yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup.

Christ Establishes the First Lord’s Supper

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” Matt. 26:26-29

Prayer of Humble Access

As we come to the risen Lord through this holy communion service, let us pray:

***We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up***

*the crumbs under your table;
but you are the same Lord
whose character is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

As the Lord Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, so do I do the same.

(the minister breaks and distributes the bread)

In remembrance of Christ's great sacrifice on our behalf, take the bread and eat it, and feed on Christ by faith in your hearts, and be thankful.

Communion Hymn- **Let Us Draw Near! The Blood Is Spilt**

Let us draw near! the blood is spilt,
the Lamb has borne the sinner's guilt;
the sacrifice for sin is made,
we meet our Father unafraid:
then let us draw near!

2. Let us draw near: the holy door
stands open wide for evermore.
No longer flame or sword shall guard
the gate by Jesus' hand unbarred:
then let us draw near!

After his disciples had consumed the bread, our Lord took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ***"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*** (1 Cor. 11:25).

Minister: So take and drink, knowing that you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes.

People: ***We proclaim his death for our sakes, his resurrection for our justification, and his coming again as our joyous consummation.***

3. Let us draw near! No more we fear,
our Savior bids us welcome here.
We come as guests of princely grace
to feast in heaven's most holy place:
then let us draw near!

4. Let us draw near, with hearts aglow,
in reverent stillness bowing low;
before the throne love's emblems plead,
in simple faith, with all our need,
come, let us draw near!

Text- Margaret Clarkson LM

Tune- Rockingham Old or Melville Extended

After Supper Thanks

We thank you, Father, for this most precious sign of our redemption, accomplished in full by our Savior and Mediator Christ Jesus on the cross. We rejoice in his living presence among us and in us by the Holy Spirit. We thank you for feeding us on the true and Living Bread from heaven. Amen.

Close

Jesus, Eternal God

Jesus, eternal God,
became the Son of man;
obediently the path he trod,
his Father's perfect plan:
he came to make God known,
he died to draw death's sting,
he lives, the Lamb upon the throne,
our Prophet, Priest and King.

2. Our Prophet, he explains
all we can know of God,
for only he eternal reigns,
the uncreated Word.
In ages long since gone
God spoke in various ways,
but now has spoken by his Son—
obey him all your days!

3. Our great High Priest, who prayed
for those who shed his blood,
who once our full atonement made,
now pleads for us with God;
though sinless, well he knew
temptations like our own,
and so can sympathize with you:
come boldly to his throne.

4. Our conquering King is he;
he dies, to die no more!
He lives, appointed now to be
God's Son in risen power.
His kingdom has no end;
to come, yet present now,
and all, as rebel or as friend,
one day to him will bow.

5. Our Prophet, Priest and King,
he meets our every need;
to him your lives and praises bring—
this man is God indeed.
To speak, to save, to reign,
he came to us in grace,
and when at last he comes again
we'll see him face to face.

By Andrew King – tune: Ascension (Hitchens) SMD

Hymn- Benediction-May the Peace

May the peace of God our heavenly Father
And the grace of Christ the risen Son
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep your hearts and minds within His love

Refrain

*And to Him be praise for His glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain –
Christ eternal the King of Kings*

May this peace which passes understanding
And this grace which makes us what we are
And this fellowship of His communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
2005 ThankYou Music

Benediction-

Pastor

*May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you. **Amen.***

CCLI # 819582