

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

The Lord Is Risen!

Welcome Guests, Friends & Family!

As a Reformed church, we are part of a long and enduring tradition that places worship as our highest calling. Therefore, we lean heavily on those who have gone before and see the value of creeds, catechisms, responsive readings, and other forms that are part of our heritage. However, our services are not highly liturgical, following a fixed pattern, nor spontaneous, but seek to follow a liturgical pattern that reenacts the gospel and renews us in God's grace. Rather than focusing on getting God to bless us, it focuses on the blessings, promises, and grace that we already have in Christ. Our basic gospel pattern is: We approach God based on His initiation and invitation, we see our sin and confess it, we are assured of forgiveness, we hear the good news, and we respond in faith and obedience.

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REFLECTION | God's people prepare for worship

What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection? A. At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

- Westminster Confession of Faith; Shorter Catechism, Questions 37 and 39

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

sons of men and an - gels say; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - le - lu - ia!

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - le - lu - ia!

sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAISE | We praise our merciful & gracious God

The Lord Gathers Us – *Worship is dialogical, meaning it is a conversation between God and his people. Just as God is the initiator of grace in the Gospel, he continues to graciously summon his people to worship. We come and are graciously blessed and renewed by him through the Gospel.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the Lord say:

“His love endures forever.”

You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

- Psalm 118:1-4, 28,29 (NIV)

PRAYER | *The first prayer of the service is meant to invoke the presence and favor of the Triune God in the name of Jesus, giving praise, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us put aside all our distractions and worship God in “Spirit and truth.”*

Songs of Praise (below)

Hallelujah for The Cross

Man of Sorrows, Lamb of God

Hallelujah for the Cross

V/C/V/C/V/C

Verse



1. Up to the hill of Cal - va - ry, my Sa - vior went cou - ra - geous - ly
2. What good I've done could ne - ver save, my debt too great for deeds to pay,



and there he bled and died for me. Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross.
but God, my Sa - vior made a way. Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross.

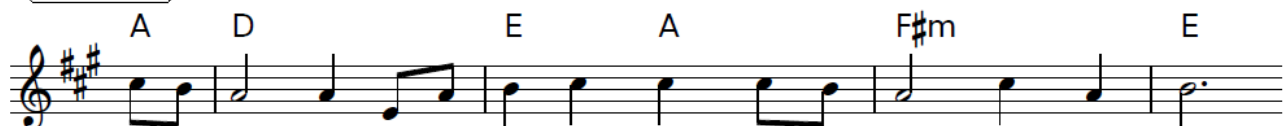


- And on that day the world was changed, a fi - nal per - fect lamb was slain.
A slave to sin, my life was bound, but all my chains fell to the ground
3. And when I breathe my fi - nal breath, I'll have no need to fear that rest.



Let earth and hea - ven now pro - claim, "Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross."
when Je - sus's blood came flo - wing down. Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross.
This hope will guide me in - to death: Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross.

Chorus



Hal - le - lu - jah for the war he fought, love has won, death has lost.



Hal - le - lu - jah for the souls he bought. Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross. _____

Man of Sorrows

C F C F C G

1. Man of sor - rows, Lamb of God, by His own be - trayed. The
 2. Si - lent as He stood ac - cused, beat - en, mocked, and scorned.
 3. Sent of heav - en, God's own Son to pur - chase and re - deem. And
 4. See the stone is rolled a - way, be - hold the emp - ty tomb.

5 A m F A m F G C

sin of man and wrath of God has been on Je - sus laid. Oh, that
 Bow - ing to the Fa - ther's will, He took a crown of thorns.
 re - con - cile the ver - y ones who nailed Him to that tree.
 Hal - le - lu - jah, God be praised, He's ris - en from the grave.

9 A m F C G A m F G

rug - ged cross, my sal - va - tion, where Your love poured out o - ver me. Now my

13 F C G A m F G C

soul cries out, hal - le - lu - jah, praise and hon - our un - to Thee.

RENEWAL | The Lord forgives his people

Confessing our Sin – *Confession is a time when we are truly honest with ourselves and God, and because he knows our every thought, there is no need to pretend. Thus we confess our sin and admit that we're not what we should be, nor what we will be.*

Merciful God, in your great mercy You have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ the only hope and anchor for our souls. Yet we confess we have doubted Your promises and given in to doubt, worry, anxiety, and self-pity. Rather than wait on You we have tried to solve our problems in our own way. Give us grace to believe that our "inheritance is kept in heaven for [us] who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation." Amen

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 6:17-20

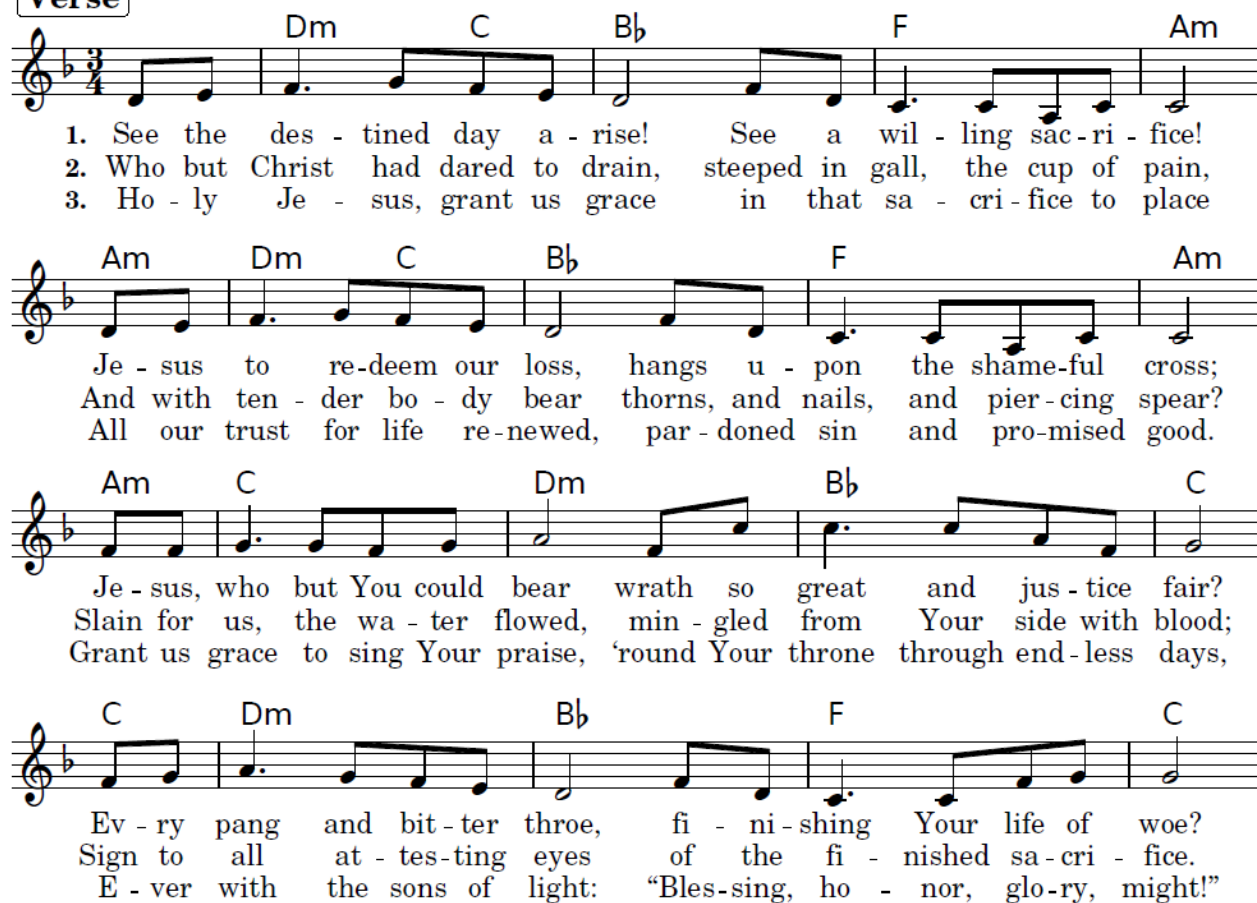
We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

See The Destined Day Arise (below)

See the Destined Day Arise

*"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.
Nevertheless, not my will, but your will, be done." — Luke 22:42*

Verse



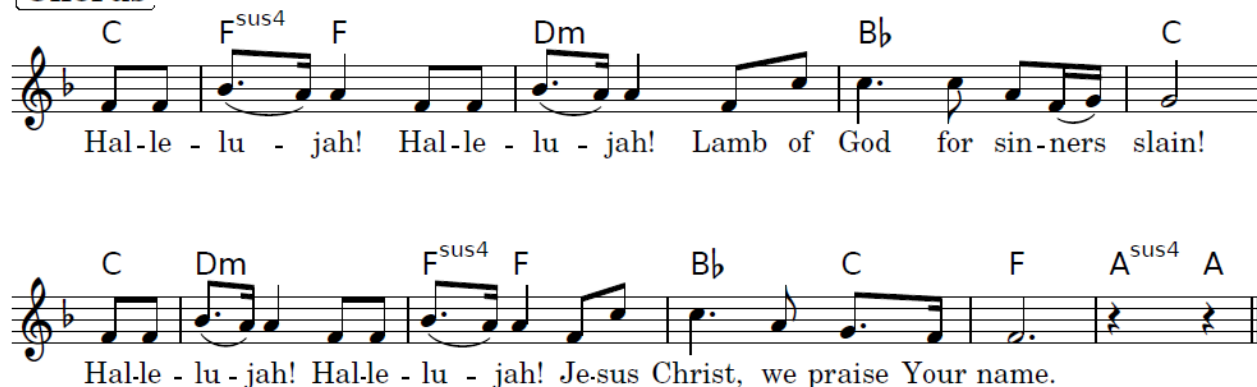
1. See the des - tined day a - rise! See a wil - ling sac - ri - fice!
2. Who but Christ had dared to drain, steeped in gall, the cup of pain,
3. Ho - ly Je - sus, grant us grace in that sa - cri - fice to place

Je - sus to re - deem our loss, hangs u - pon the shame - ful cross;
And with ten - der bo - dy bear thorns, and nails, and pier - cing spear?
All our trust for life re - newed, par - doned sin and pro - mised good.

Je - sus, who but You could bear wrath so great and jus - tice fair?
Slain for us, the wa - ter flowed, min - gled from Your side with blood;
Grant us grace to sing Your praise, 'round Your throne through end - less days,

Ev - ry pang and bit - ter throe, fi - ni - shing Your life of woe?
Sign to all at - tes - ting eyes of the fi - nished sa - cri - fice.
E - ver with the sons of light: "Bles - sing, ho - nor, glo - ry, might!"

Chorus



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Lamb of God for sin - ners slain!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus Christ, we praise Your name.

Thine Be The Glory

by G.F. Handel, arr. H. Sneller
Helen Sneller, clarinet

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-15

We believe the Bible is the inerrant word of the true and living God, and our infallible rule for faith and practice.

Sermon: "Sentiment or Reality"

The sermon is meant by God's design to be ancient, timeless truth from his Word, explained, expounded, and applied, so that all who are listening will understand it and be changed by it. It is the way in which God speaks to his church. As J.I. Packer has stated, "God has spoken in the Bible and He has not stuttered."

RESPONSE | We respond with thanksgiving

We Give – *Our offering is not simply the way our church "pays the bills;" it is an act of worship where we respond to God's grace and generosity and give back to the Lord His resources as tangible evidence of our love for Him.*

***We Sing**

All I Have Is Christ (below)

All I Have Is Christ

V/V/C/V/C/C

Verse

1. I once was lost in dar - kest night, yet thought I knew the way;
 2. But as I ran my hell-bound race, in - dif-frent to the cost,
 3. Now, Lord, I would be Yours a - lone and live so all might see

The sin that pro - mised joy and life had led me to the grave.
 You looked u - pon my help - less state and led me to the cross.
 the strength to fol - low Your com-ands could ne-ver come from me.

I had no hope that You would own a re - bel to Your will,
 And I be - held God's love dis - played: You suf-fered in my place;
 Oh Fa-ther, use my ran-somed life in a - ny way You choose,

and if You had not loved me first I would re - fuse You still.
 You bore the wrath re-served for me; Now all I know is grace!
 and let my song fo - re - ver be: My on - ly boast is You.

Chorus

Hal - le - lu - jah! All I have is Christ!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus is my life!

Benediction | *Please stand as you are able*

From the Latin “beneficiary,” meaning “to bless,” this is the pronouncement of God’s blessing as we are sent out into our places of influence.

We Go – *Heeding his commission, we go to our places of influence to rescue other wandering and lost sheep like ourselves*