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Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021
10 am
Gathering to Praise God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

For three days Jesus lay in a cold and lonely cave,
and it appeared that death had won.

But God's love cannot be contained by anything, not even death!

This is the good news we celebrate:

The stone is rolled away! The tomb is empty!

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

Brothers and sisters, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us worship the Risen Christ!

Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

UMH#302

(vv. 1-4)

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Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high! Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Verse 3

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where's the victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, Like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of the rising sun, God of darkness banished, we praise and worship You! For empty tombs—thank You! For Your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected—thank You!

**Today we celebrate Your victory over death,
and over all the powers that would defeat us.**

Help us to grasp the resurrection—

**to understand its power, and to see its force at work in our world:
overturning evil empires, changing the fear and hatred within us,
and bending the world slowly, and forcefully, toward love and truth;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

A Message for Young Disciples

Cara Norris

Anthem

He's Alive

Chancel Singers

Don Francisco | Russell Mauldin

Phil Gobrecht, soloist

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Proclamation and Response

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Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "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.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

The Good & Beautiful God: God Transforms

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Handbells

Offertory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Closing Song

Because He Lives (Amen)

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Gloria Gaither

Jason Ingram | Matt Maher | William J. Gaither

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Verse 1

I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome by the power of His blood

Chorus

Amen, amen, I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen, amen, Let my song join the one that never ends (Because He lives)

Verse 2

I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name, He rolled the stone away

Chorus

Bridge

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life, my future in His hand

Ending

Because He lives

Sending Forth

Benediction

Postlude