

April 21, 2019

Resurrection: Life Victorious

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

Indeed, the simple truth is that the resurrection cannot be accommodated in any way of understanding the world except one of which it is the starting point... If it is true, it has to be the starting point of a wholly new way of understanding the cosmos and the human situation in the cosmos.

Lesslie Newbigin
British Theologian, Author,
and Missionary to India

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

If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense—[then] it is only about me, and finding a new dimension in my personal spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world—news which warms our hearts precisely because it isn't just about warming our hearts. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things—and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all. Take away Easter and Karl Marx was probably right to accuse Christianity of ignoring problems of the material world. Take it away and Freud was probably right to say Christianity is wish-fulfillment. Take it away and Nietzsche probably was right to say it was for wimps.

NT Wright

New Testament Scholar and Anglican Bishop of Durham

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with him. Yesterday I died with him; today I am given life with him. Yesterday I was buried with him; today I rise again with him.

Gregory of Nazianzus
4th Century Archbishop of Constantinople

...the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:19-23

We cannot allow the resurrection account to become a faded if cherished memory that is to be placed in a photo album and taken out once a year and admired. The ending forces us to enter the story. We are the next chapter.

David Garland
Biblical Scholar and
President of Baylor University

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Romans 6
Psalm 95

People: **Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

We come and rejoice

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ri - sen King, who de - light to bring him praise; come,
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing in the night; come,
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the faith; come,



all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where
per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but
all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther chil - dren in. Re -
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



joyce! Re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joice! One heart, one



voice; O church of Christ re - joice!

The early church called Sunday the Lord's Day because it was on Sunday that Christ rose from the grave. So every Sunday we gather as his people and celebrate his resurrection and our hope in him.

"Worship Christ, The Risen King"

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2

Chords: Γ B \flat , F 7 B \flat , Γ E \flat , B \flat Gm, F 7 B \flat

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voice, Christ has con- quered death and hell.
2. See the tomb where death had laid him, emp- ty now, its mouth de- clares:
3. Hear the earth pro- test and trem- ble, see the stone re- moved with pow'r;
4. Doubt may lift its head to mur- mur, scoff- ers mock and sin- ners jeer;
5. We ac- claim your life, O Je- sus, now we sing your vic- to- ry;

Chords: B \flat , F 7 Gm D, Gm D Gm, F C 7 F

Sing as all the earth re- joic- es; res- ur- rec- tion an- thems swell.
 "Death and I could not con- tain him, for the throne of life he shares."
 • all hell's min- ions may as- sem- ble, but can- not with- stand his hour.
 but the truth pro- claims a won- der thought- ful hearts re- ceive with cheer.
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your con- quest keeps us free.

Chords: F, B \flat 7 , E \flat , Γ Cm Dm Cm Gm, B \flat F 7 B \flat Γ

Come and wor- ship, come and wor- ship, wor- ship Christ, the ris- en King!
 Come and wor- ship, come and wor- ship, wor- ship Christ, the ris- en King!
 • He has con- quered, he has con- quered, Christ the Lord, the ris- en King!
 He is ris- en, he is ris- en, now re- ceive the ris- en King!
 Stand in tri- umph, stand in tri- umph, wor- ship Christ, the ris- en King!

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to be buried in death with Christ for our sin

How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life...For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6

We confess our sin and walk in newness of life through Jesus Christ

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

We declare that his resurrection is our life

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

People: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

1 Corinthians 15

Elder: In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

The empty tomb of Easter is the assurance of our salvation. As the wages of sin is death (Romans 6), Christ's victory over death in his resurrection is our guarantee that by faith in him we find forgiveness, redemption from our sin, and eternal life in him.

We come the empty tomb and find the stone rolled away for us "Thine Be the Glory"

"Death is
swallowed up in
victory."
"O death, where is
your victory?
O death, where is
your sting?"

The sting of death
is sin, and the
power of sin is the
law. But thanks be
to God, who gives
us the victory
through our Lord
Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

^{REFRAIN}
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;
to thy home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1–5, 12–28

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve...

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

At some point and in some way, a sermon has to direct people toward the death of Christ and the campaign God has waged over the centuries to get our attention.
Garrison Keillor

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Resurrection: Life Victorious

50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Immanuel

God with us

incarnation

veiled in flesh the
Godhead see

Messiah/Christ

appointed,
empowered, sent

Savior

the great rescuer

epiphany

God revealed

love

Christ died for us

hope

assured confidence

grace

love undeserved

sin

not the way it's
supposed to be

redemption

ransomed

atonement

setting things right

propitiation

wrath lovingly satisfied

reconciliation

enemies no longer

forgiveness

sin's double cure

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We walk in newness of life proclaiming our death and resurrection in Christ's death and resurrection as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ and so we follow his example.

In the Lord's Supper we partake of the benefits of the great redemptive act of history: Christ's death on the cross. We are united to Christ so much so that the Apostle Paul can say we have been crucified with him –and if we are crucified with him, we are raised with him (Romans 6).

"Praise the Savior, Now and Ever"

1. Praise the Sav - ior, now and ev - er; — praise him, — all be - neath the skies;
2. Man's work fail - eth, Christ's a - vail - eth; — he is — all our righ - teous - ness;
3. Sin's bond — sev - er - ed, we're de - liv - er - ed; Christ has — bruised the ser - pent's head;
4. For his — fa - vor, praise for - ev - er, — un - to — God the Fa - ther sing;

5
pros - trate ly - ing, suf - fring, dy - ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
he, our Sav - ior, has for - ev - er set us free from dire dis - tress.
death no lon - ger is the — stron - ger; hell it - self is cap - tive — led.
praise the Sav - ior, praise him — ev - er, Son of God, our Lord and — King.

9
Vic - t'ry — gain - ing, life ob - tain - ing, — now in — glo - ry he doth rise!
Through his — mer - it we in - her - it — light and — peace and hap - pi - ness.
Christ has — ris - en from death's pri - son; o'er the — tomb he light has shed.
Praise the — Spi - rit; through Christ's mer - it — he doth — us sal - va - tion bring.

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1.Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!
 2.Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich
 3.Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, who
 4.Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Fa - ther known; one
 5.Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time; Cre -

how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own! A -
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied. No
 rose vic - tor - ious to the strife for those he came to save. His
 with the Spi - rit, through him giv'n, from yon - der glo - rious throne. To
 a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All

wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 an - gel in the sky can full - y bear that sight, but
 glor - ies now we sing, who died and rose on high, who
 thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died; be
 hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me: thy

hail him as thy match - less King, through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 down - ward bends his wond' - ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - tern - al life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thou, O Lord, through end - less days a - dored and mag - ni - fied.
 praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!...To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

Revelation 5

This is the newness in life in which we walk: that we cast our crowns before the risen Lord, giving him our lives, our tithes, and our offerings

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

Raised with Christ we come before the throne of grace with confidence, crying out to our heavenly Father in prayer

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace, placing our lives and our church in his hands.
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory*

Who is to
condemn? Christ
Jesus is the one
who died—more
than that, who was
raised—who is at
the right hand of
God, who indeed
is interceding for
us.
Romans 8

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We proclaim the reality of his resurrection as the reality of our lives

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

"Why do you seek
the living among
the dead? He is
not here, but has
risen."
Luke 24

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!

We live in the reality and the power of Christ's resurrection

Leader: 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.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*

Hebrews 13

500 WORDS

THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH

revelation

God spoke

inspiration

God-breathed

trinity

3-1-1

holiness

separation

righteousness

the way it should be

sovereignty

ultimate kingship

providence

kingship in action

kingdom

living the reign

salvation

ultimate rescue

election

God's choosing

predestination

the love before time

calling

lovingly summoned

regeneration

made alive with Christ

repentance

turning

faith

confident trust

justification

made right

adoption

beloved children

sanctification

making the holy holy

perseverance

held secure

glorification

the full enjoyment of God

advent

coming

Immanuel

God with us

incarnation

veiled in flesh
the Godhead see

Messiah/Christ

appointed, empowered,
sent

Savior

the great rescuer

epiphany

God revealed

love

Christ died for us

hope

assured confidence

grace

love undeserved

sin

not the way
it's supposed to be

redemption

ransomed

atonement

setting things right

propitiation

wrath lovingly satisfied

reconciliation

enemies no longer

forgiveness

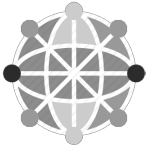
sin's double cure



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Beth Almquist, *piano*,

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"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

If Christ is risen, nothing else matters.
And if Christ is not risen—nothing else matters.

Jaroslav Pelikan
20th Century Church Historian

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory