



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020



He Is Not Here . . .

Easter @ fpc April 12, 2020

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CALL TO WORSHIP:

Beloved church,
behold the victory of our God:
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Almighty God,
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death
and opened the way to eternal life.

As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death,
make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life,
that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!"

Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit
now and forever. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN:

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#288

- 1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*
- 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!*
- 3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*
- 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!*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness
that we may enter through them.
Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit
we have been raised from the waters of baptism
to share in your glorious resurrection.

Yet we have not lived as Easter people.

We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger.

Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence.

Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence.

Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory.

Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts,

keep our minds on your reconciling love.

Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil,

reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression.

Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation

through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Listen, church:

God who raised Jesus from the dead has not
given us over to death.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Take a moment to share Christ's peace by greeting those around you.)

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the Church throughout the world,
that as we celebrate the feast of Jesus' resurrection,
we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name.
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers, and ministers,
that they be wise in leadership, humble in service, and fearless in the face of evil;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders,
that they may practice compassion
and reject the politics that use death and suffering as means of control;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth,
that people may be good stewards of its resources
and share in its abundance;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the stranger,
that they may receive a place of refuge, hope, and hospitality;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress,
that they may find healing for their pain
and be restored to fullness of life;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors,
that together we may dwell in harmony;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that we may love them
and be agents of reconciliation in the name of Jesus;
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer,
and by the power of your Holy Spirit
use us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
In his name we pray. **Amen.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Almighty God,
by the power of your Spirit
roll away the stone
and reveal to us the Word of Life. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Matthew 28:1-10

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON:

"He Is Not Here"

Rev. Dr Jared Witt

SOLO:

"Oh Lord, Easter Morning"

Linda Jackson

pub. Shawnee Press

***THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in
one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS/ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

DOXOLOGY:

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***CLOSING HYMN:**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

#295

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once, upon the cross,
Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!*
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross
and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!*
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured: Alleluia! now above the sky he's
King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!*
- 4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love: Alleluia! praise him, all ye heavenly host,
Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!*

***BLESSING**

HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS

MORNING

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in your resurrection.
As I sing "alleluia" with my voice,
let my life embody "alleluia" as a testimony to your love
and a witness to your eternal life. Amen.

EVENING

Lord, the days of sadness are over,
for you have risen from the dead.
As you conquered the grave,
free your servant from fear of harm or death,
that I may rest in peace this night
and in the morning rise to sing "alleluia." Amen.