

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE

April 24, 2011

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THE ACCOUNT OF THE RESURRECTION FROM 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. 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 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.'" 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.

This is the gospel of our Risen Lord.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: *Because He Lives*

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my
Savior lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face
tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living. Just
because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days
because He Lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face
tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just
because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He
lives.

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face
tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just
because He lives!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

On this day we overflow with thanks and praise, O God, for this is the day you have made, - the day that fills us with both fear and great joy. On this day you sent your angels to roll back the stone and you raised Jesus, who had been crucified, from the dead. Never again need we search for Jesus in the places of dead memories and buried dreams for now he has been raised and goes forever ahead of us to open the gates of justice, preaching peace and the forgiveness of sins. Indeed though he was the stone rejected by the builders, you have made him the cornerstone, the rock on which is founded the life everlasting, the life that is hidden for us in Christ until it is revealed with Christ in glory. We thank you and we praise you O God, both now, and through your living word, eternally. Amen. Amen.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 65:17-25

Hear this record of the promise of God to his people Israel - a promise that even now through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is coming to pass. A reading of the word of God from the Prophet Isaiah. (NRSV) For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. {18} But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. {19} I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. {20} No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. {21} They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. {22} They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. {23} They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring

blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well. {24} Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. {25} The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

SERMON THOUGHTS

AN EASTER PRAYER AND THE OUR FATHER

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death, over suffering and shame, over all evil and wrong.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, overcoming by the power of love, by patient trust and perseverance, by faith in God alone.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, proving that nothing can separate us from God's love, showing us how far that love will go, and suffering for the sins of the world.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, and we offer You our thanks and our praise, our prayers and our worship, our devotion and our service.

Lord, Jesus, we greet You, and we pray to you, and we pray through you, and we pray with joy and confidence as you taught us, saying Our Father...

HYMN: Ask Me What Great Thing I know

Ask ye what great thing I know,
That delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win?
Whose the Name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

What is faith's foundation strong?
What awakes my heart to song?
He Who bore my sinful load,
Purchased for me peace with God,
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

Who is He that makes me wise
To discern where duty lies?
Who is He that makes me true
Duty, when discerned to do,
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart,
Healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on His right,
With the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

This is that great thing I know;
This delights and stirs me so;
Faith in Him Who died to save,
Him Who triumphed over the grave:
Jesus Christ, the Crucified