

When Jesus Pursues the Grieving

Welcome to our celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

This Easter we focus on Mary Magdalene who had a life-transforming encounter with her Lord. Interestingly, she is the most frequently mentioned follower of Jesus in the gospels behind Peter and John. Her name is mentioned eighteen times.

When you doubt the gospel's power to change you and others, remember her. Her story reminds us that all of God's people who are on pilgrimage to the heavenly city have to pass through valleys of weeping, but the Lord's wells of salvation and deliverance shall be opened for them, and comforts sent from on high to be their support.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION * 9:00 AM Service * Gathered Worship

O God of my exodus,
great was the joy of Israel's sons
when Egypt died upon the shore;
far greater the joy when my Redeemer's foe
lay crushed in the dust.
King Jesus burst the bands of death,
trampled the powers of darkness, and lives forever.
He was delivered up for payment of my debt
and came forth from the prison house of the grave,
free and triumphant over sin, Satan, and death.
In Him, I died . In Him, I rose . In Him, I live.
By His victory, I triumph; and through His ascension,
I shall be glorified for His Name's sake. Amen!

THE EASTER STORY. John 20:1-10

THE EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

SONG FOR GATHERING Beautiful, Scandalous Night

Go on up to the mountain of mercy,
To the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
Be thirsty no more,
Go under and be purified.

Chorus: At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
On that beautiful, scandalous night, you and me
Were atoned by His blood and forever washed white,
On that beautiful, scandalous night.

Follow Christ to the holy mountain,
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by the Fall,
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flows
For you and for me and for all. Chorus

On the hillside you will be delivered,
At the foot of the cross, justified,
And your spirit restored
By the river that pours
From our blessed Savior's side. Chorus

PRAYER OF ADORATION.

SONG OF THE CROSS Lamb of God

You came from heaven's throne
Acquainted with our sorrow
To trade the debt we owe
Your suffering for our freedom

Chorus: The Lamb of God in my place
Your blood poured out my sin erased
It was my death You died, I am raised to life
Hallelujah the Lamb of God

My name upon Your heart
My shame upon Your shoulders
The pow'r of sin undone
The cross for my salvation

There is no greater love
There is no greater love
The Savior lifted up
There is no greater love

SONG OF THE CROWN You Are My King

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Chorus: Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
Now it's my joy to honor You in all I do, I honor you.

You are my King, You Are My King
You are my King, You are my King (Chorus)

So let the redeemed lift up their hands, sing hail to the king
Worthy is the Lamb, in awe we are standing on Holy ground

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MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION.

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
You shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We waste Your gifts, wander from Your ways,
and forget Your love.
We overlook our neighbor
and are often absorbed with ourselves.
Forgive us, Father of mercies. Help us to trust Your power
to transform us and make us new
so that we may know the joy of abundant life
given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION OF SIN.

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON Romans 4:25

He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

SONG OF PRAISE. O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus: O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King. Chorus

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. Chorus

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God. (2X)

GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES.

SERMON TEXT. John 20:11-18
Page 1153 in the Church Bible

THE SERMON When Jesus Pursues the Grieving
#4 in our series on "When Jesus Pursues"

1. He opens our hearts to love Him.
2. He opens our ears to hear Him.
3. He opens our eyes to behold Him.
4. He inclines our wills to serve Him.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

HYMN OF COMMITMENT **In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

BENEDICTION **Hebrews 13:20-21**

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep,
equip you with everything good for doing his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN.