

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!

PRELUDE Easter Celebration Medley

THE EASTER STORY. John 20:1-10

THE EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISEWorship Christ the Risen King

Rise O Church and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices, Resurrection anthems swell
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the Risen King

See the tomb where death had laid Him, Empty now its mouth declares.
Death and I could not contain Him, For the throne of life He shares.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the Risen King.

Hear the earth protest and tremble, See the stone removed with pow'r.
All hell's minions may assemble, But cannot withstand His hour.
He has conquered, He has conquered, Christ the Lord the Risen King

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, Scoffers mock and sinners jeer.
But the truth proclaims a wonder, Thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, He is risen, Now receive the Risen King.

We acclaim Your life O Jesus, Now we sing Your victory.
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, But Your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, Worship Christ the Risen King.

PRAYER OF ADORATION.

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.

HYMN OF ENTHRONEMENT. Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns, All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing, Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King, Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love: Behold His hands and side -
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky, Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye, At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife, For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him given,
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days, Adored and magnified.

THE GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS. 2 Timothy 1:10

Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death
and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

ANTHEM Risen Indeed!

GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES.....

HYMN OF PREPARATION.....**See, What a Morning!**



1. See what a morn - ing, glo - rious-ly bright, with the
2. See Ma - ry weep - ing, "Where is He laid?" As in
3. One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, through the



dawn - ing of hope in Je - ru - sa - lem;
sor - row she turns from the emp - ty tomb.
Spi - rit Who clothes faith with cer - tain - ty.



Fold - ed the grave-clothes tomb filled with light, as the
Hears a voice speak - ing, call - ing her name; It's the
Hon - or and bless - ing, glo - ry and praise to the



an - gels an - nounce "Christ is ris - - en!"
Mas - ter, the Lord, raised to life a - gain!
King crowned with Pow'r and Au - thor - i - ty.



See God's sal - va - tion plan, wrought in love, borne in
The voice that spans the years, speak - ing life, stir - ring
And we are raised with Him; Death is dead, love has



pain, paid in sac - ri - fice, ful - filled in Christ the Man,
hope, bring - ing peace to us, will sound 'til He ap - pears,
won, Christ has con - quered. And we shall reign with Him,



for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.
for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.
for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.

SERMON TEXT..... **John 20:11-18**

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 RESURRECTION Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

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!

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!

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.