

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER AT HOME LITURGY

April 12, 2020

This liturgy is set up to be led by the head of household in a family. Saints who worship alone are still encouraged to read aloud as directed. All directions are underlined.

Preparation for Worship

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passage, praying for the Lord to bless your time of worship:

Scripture for Meditation

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

God Calls Us Into His Presence

Read the following passage aloud responsively:

Call to Worship

Psalms 118:1, 24

**All: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

We Respond to God's Call

Stand and sing the following hymn together:

Hymn of Praise, No. 277 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Listen to tune here: <https://www.cpcjackson.org/sermons/hymn-277-christ-the-lord-is-risen-today/>

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

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!

Have leader pray the following prayer aloud, all responding with “Amen”:

Prayer of Adoration

God our Father, by raising Christ Your Son, You conquered the power of death and opened to us the way of eternal life. Let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

Be seated. Have leader read the verses before and after, with all praying aloud together.

Call to Confession

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Confession of Sin

(kneel, as able)

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned Him Lord of all. We confess that we have not always bowed before Him or fully acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give Him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the Church, His body. Amen.

Stand.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 4:25

Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

We Respond to God's Declaration

All remain standing and sing together:

The Gloria Patri

(with hands lifted)

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.

Be seated.

God Consecrates Us By His Word

Have leader pray the following prayer aloud, all responding with "Amen":

Prayer for Illumination

God of life, Your Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture. Your Spirit draws us to Christ that we may acknowledge Him as Lord. We ask that You will send Your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. This we pray, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Have one person read each of the Scripture passages:

New Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18

Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, 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, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord,
and that He had spoken these things to her.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

All: Praise be to You, O Christ!

Homily: Listen to the message posted on the homepage of the church
website: www.cpcjackson.org

We Respond to God's Instruction

Have leader ask, "Christians, what do we believe?" Then, all respond by reciting the creed together:

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

Have leader read each section of prayer, all responding after "God of all mercies," with "Hear our prayer" and final "Amen."

O Christ, You are glorified by angels in heaven, and worshiped on earth. In the glorious light of Your resurrection, we pray to You:

God of all mercies, **People: Hear our prayer.**

O merciful God, You raised Your beloved Son, and in Your love You established Him as head of Your church, and ruler of the universe. Out of His fullness, fill all things with His presence. In Your goodness we pray:

God of all mercies, **People: Hear our prayer.**

O Christ, through Your resurrection You lifted us up, and filled us with rejoicing. Through Your salvation You enrich us with Your gifts. Renew our lives, dispel our sadness, and fill our hearts with joy. Through Your victory, we pray to You:

God of all mercies, **People: Hear our prayer.**

O Christ, after Your resurrection You appeared to Your disciples; You breathed on them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. You gave joy and exultation to the whole creation. Set us and the creation free in Your glorious liberty. Through Your victory, we pray to You:

God of all mercies, **People: Hear our prayer.**

O Christ, after Your resurrection, You sent out Your disciples to teach all nations, and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; You promised to be with them until the end of the age. Empower us to proclaim Your triumph. Through Your victory, we pray to You:

God of all mercies, **People: Hear our prayer.**

Save us, O Christ our Lord, in Your goodness; extend Your mercy to Your people as we await the coming resurrection. Grant all that we need to live faithfully in the service of Your Kingdom as we await the day of our King's return.

These things we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

God Commissions Us to Go Into the World

Hymn of Faith and Commitment, No. 276

Up From the Grave He Arose

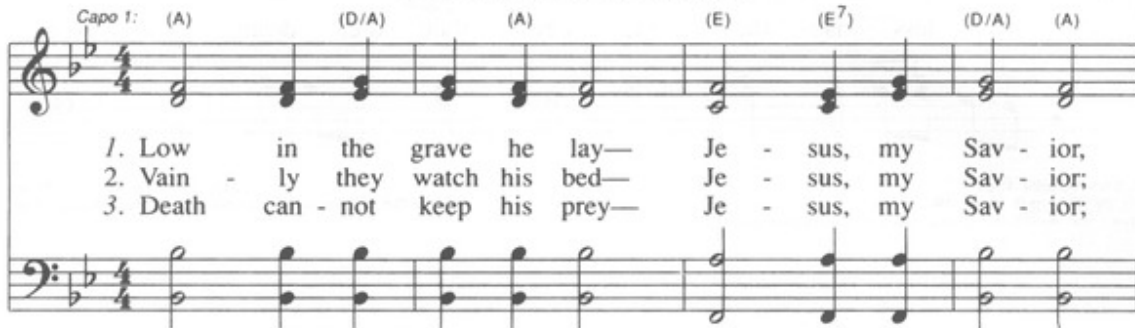
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Up from the Grave He Arose

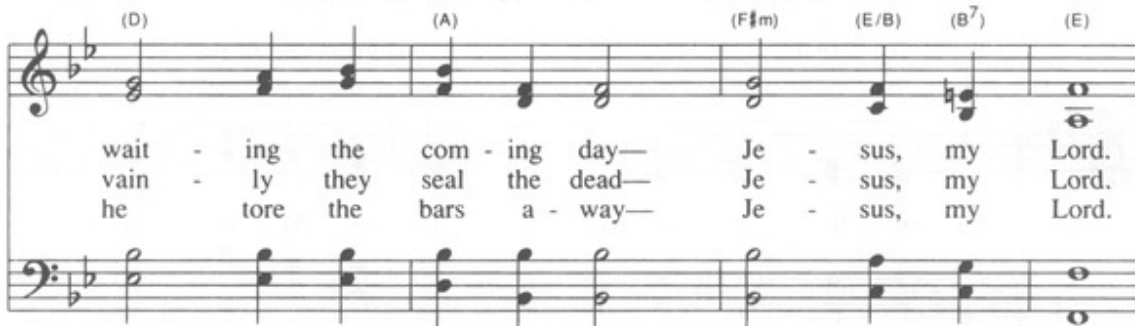
An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. Matt. 28:2

Capo 1: (A) (D/A) (A) (E) (E⁷) (D/A) (A)



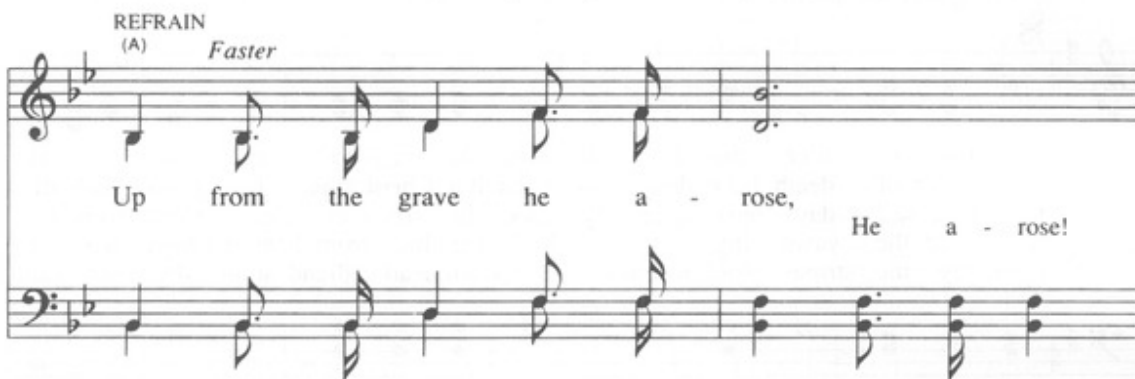
1. Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior,
2. Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;
3. Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;

(D) (A) (F#m) (E/B) (B⁷) (E)



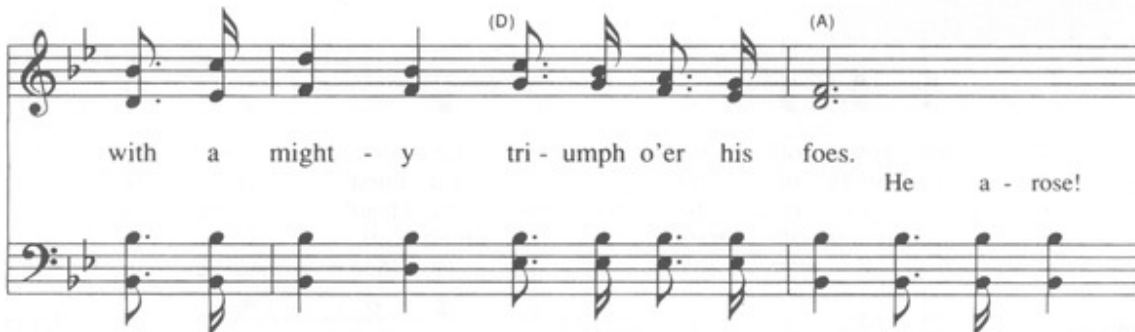
wait - ing the com - ing day— Je - sus, my Lord.
vain - ly they seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord.
he tore the bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord.

REFRAIN (A) *Faster*



Up from the grave he a - rose, He a - rose!

(D) (A)



with a might - y tri - umph o'er his foes. He a - rose!

HIS RESURRECTION

He a - rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he

lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign. He a - rose!

He a - rose!

He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

Robert Lowry, 1874

CHRIST AROSE 11.10.ref.
Robert Lowry, 1874

Closing Charge and Commitment

Leader: Let us go forth in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ!

All: **Thanks be to God!**