

## March 22-Written Service

**Praise Team-** Lesley and Neil Bartholomew, Katie Kirby, Jeremy Russell, Collen Turner, Merlin Thompson, Laura Garred

**Special Music-** PRC Choir

**Guest Cellist-** Alejandro Anguiano

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

Leader: The world may cry out in distress, and shadows may threaten, but we do not hide in fear.

All: We have been called, even as Esther was, for a purpose higher than our own comfort.

Leader: When silence feels safer, God calls us to speak. When apathy is easier, God calls us to act.

All: We are here for such a time as this, trusted with a purpose to bring light to a dark world.

Leader: Let us surrender our fear and act with bold faith.

All: Let us worship the Lord, who positions us for action and equips us with courage!

### Song: How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King

Clothed in majesty,

Let all the earth rejoice,

Let all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light

And darkness tries to hide,

It trembles at His voice,

It trembles at His voice.

How great is our God!

Sing with me,

How great is our God!

And all will see how great,

How great is our God!

Age to age, He stands

And time is in His hands,

Beginning and the End,

Beginning and the End.

The Godhead, three in one,  
Father, Spirit, Son.  
The Lion and the Lamb,  
The Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God!  
Sing with me,  
How great is our God!

And all will see how great,  
How great is our God!

### **Prayer**

#### **Song: Mighty to Save**

Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing,  
Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Savior,  
The Hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains,  
My God is mighty to save.  
He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of Salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me,  
All my fears and failures,  
Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow,  
Everything I believe in,  
Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains,

My God is mighty to save.  
He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of Salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

### **Installation of Elders and Deacons**

### **Children's Message**

### **Congregational Prayer**

### **Song: #328- In the Cross of Christ I Glory (vs. 1,2,4)**

#### VERSE 1

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

#### VERSE 2

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me:  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

#### VERSE 3

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds new luster to the day.

#### VERSE 4

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

### **Announcements**

**Special Music- “Let Me Thirst with You” by Schram; sung by the choir with guest cellist, Alejandro Anguiano**

### **Offering**

**Offertory- “O Sacred Head, Surrounded (with The Old Rugged Cross”- Alejandro Anguiano, cello**

**Offering Song- Oh How He Loves You and Me**

**Offering Prayer**

### **Message**

- Intro-Easter Eggs
  - Explain Easter Eggs
  - One of my dad’s favorite authors was Clive Cussler
    - Used to listen to these audio books while driving truck
    - One of his favorite details was that in every book, Cussler would insert a classic car from his own collection
  - In *Dragon*, Cussler wrote himself into the story as a stranger who races Dirk Pitt, driving a 1926 Hispano-Suiza against Pitt’s 1932 Stutz town car.
  - Sahara, which was turned into a movie, it was a 1936 Avions Voisin
  - These are sprinkled throughout all of his books
  - Similarly, we see Easter Eggs pointing to Jesus all over in the Old Testament
    - In these weeks leading up to Easter, we’ve been reading a few of these stories on a hunt for those references to Jesus that are hiding there
- This week, looking for hints of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection in story of Esther
  - Background on Esther
    - Esther was a young woman who became a queen
    - Jewish people were in exile
    - The king had just sent away his previous wife and was looking for a new bride
    - Eventually settled on Esther to be the new queen
    - So she is Jewish (those out of power) and queen (married to the most powerful)
    - The king’s highest advisor Haman hates Esther’s cousin Mordecai and by extension all of the Jewish people
    - Haman convinces the king to pass a law that on a certain day in the coming months, people all through the empire can attack and kill their Jewish neighbors
    - Mordecai learns of this plot which is where our passage takes place
  - Read Esther 4:1-14
  - What did you see?
- What caught me in Esther’s story was her going into the presence of the king and pleading for mercy on behalf of her people
  - It almost feels priest like, doesn’t it?
    - This was what priests all through the OT did
  - Keep Esther’s story in mind as you hear these words about Jesus from Hebrews 4:14-5:10
  - 5:1 every priest is selected from among people and is appointed to represent them in matter related to God

- Esther selected from among the people (was one of them, but also one of the ruling court)
    - Offers petition for their lives
  - She too stands in position of judgment as a Hebrew (Jesus became once and forever fully human)
- Through Esther's actions, her people were spared
  - Her story turns certain condemnation and death into a complete victory over all their enemies (more on that in a minute)
  - Through Jesus' actions on our behalf, we too are spared from the condemnation and death that was knocking on our door; and in His resurrection this defeat is turned into a complete and utter victory
  - Here's how the story ended in Esther
    - King didn't (couldn't) undo the decree allowing Jews to be killed
    - Instead permitted them special powers to arm, assemble, and destroy those who wished them harm
  - **No longer on the defensive, but are now allowed through the work of Esther to go on the offensive**
    - The Jewish people were no just rescued, they were giving power to defeat everyone who was against them
    - What had seemed like it would be their end became their greatest victory
  - Through Christ, we also have the victory
    - No longer playing defense and just trying to not sin and give in to the devil
    - But Christians are now called to be storming the very gates of hell to bring back life and hope to overcome the enemy

**Song: #45- Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1,3,4)**

Crown Him with many crowns,  
 The Lamb upon His throne.  
 Hark! how the heavenly 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  
 Thro' all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life!  
 Who triumphed o'er the grave;  
 Who rose victorious in the strife  
 For those He came to save.

His glories now we sing,  
 Who died and rose on high,

Who died eternal lie to bring  
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heaven!  
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!

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**