

April 5 (Easter)-Written Service

Special Music: PRC Choir, Sunday School students, PRC Bells

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is Risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: We gather to celebrate the good news: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

All: He was buried, and He rose again on the third day.

Leader: He appeared to His followers, proving death is defeated and new life has come.

All: We worship the Risen Lord, our Savior and our hope!

(Please be seated)

Choral Call to Worship- Hallelujah! He is Risen! (sung by the PRC Choir and Sunday School students)

Song: #357- Christ Arose (please stand)

Low in the grave He lay--

Jesus, my Savior!

Waiting the coming day--

Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, (He arose!)

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! (He arose!)

He arose! (He arose!)

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed--

Jesus, my Savior!

Vainly they seal the dead--

Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, (He arose)

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! (He arose!)
He arose! (He arose!)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey--
Jesus my Savior!
He tore the bars away--
Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, (He arose!)
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! (He arose!)
He arose! (He arose!)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Children's Message

Announcements

Special Music: Victory! The Proclamation of Easter....Arr by Marty Parks and sung by the PRC Choir.
Soloist: Robin Thompson

Song: #368- He Lives (vs. 1,3)

I serve a risen Savior,
He's in the world today;
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say.

I see His hand of mercy;
I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him,
He's always near.

He lives, (He lives),
He lives! (He lives),

Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me
And talks with me
Along life's narrow way.

He lives, (He lives),
He lives, (He lives),
Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs '
To Jesus Christ, the King!

The Hope of all who seek Him,
The help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
So good and kind.

He lives, (He lives)
He lives! (He lives)!
Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me
And talks with me
Along life's narrow way.

He lives, (He lives),
He lives, (He lives),
Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!

Congregational Prayer

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Because He Lives (refrain)

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!

Offering Prayer

Scripture: I Corinthians 15: 3-8; 12-23

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas,^[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Message

Intro-It's Easter, so you all know what we're going to talk about, right?

The Chicxulub Impact Crater is on the edge of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico

This impact crater has a diameter of around 120 miles

It was caused by an asteroid roughly 6 miles across

When it struck the earth

The kinetic energy of the impact was estimated at 72 teratonnes of TNT (300 ZJ).^[31] The impact generated winds in excess of 1,000 kilometers per hour (620 mph) near the blast's center

The impact, expansion of water after filling the crater, and related seismic activity spawned megatsunamis over 100 meters (330 ft) tall,

with one simulation suggesting the immediate waves from the impact may have reached up to 1.5 kilometers (0.93 mi) high.

The rock heated Earth's surface and ignited wildfires, estimated to have enveloped nearly 70% of the planet's forests. The effect on living creatures even hundreds of kilometers away was immense, and much of present-day Mexico and the United States would have been devastated.^{[8][13]:10–13}^[9] Fossil evidence for an instantaneous extinction of diverse animals was found in a soil layer only 10 centimeters (3.9 in) thick in New Jersey, 2,500 kilometers (1,600 mi) away from the impact site, indicating that death and burial under debris occurred suddenly and quickly over wide distances on nearby land.

About the Great Depression

War, loss of loved ones, making it big

Some things have an impact so big, so earth-shattering, that on the other side absolutely everything changes

And that's Easter

This morning we're going to focus less on the resurrection itself and more on the impact and implications of the resurrection

1 Cor 15:3-8, 12-23

3-8

These verses contain one of the earliest Christian Creeds (statement of belief, something central to what it means to follow Jesus)

Paul writes that he passed this message on "as of first importance"

1. Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures
2. He was buried
3. He was raised on the third day according to Scriptures
4. He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve, after that to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at the same time, then to James, then to all the apostles
 - a. Footnote-Paul adds, then to me

This creed (Christ died, was buried, was raised, and appeared to lots of people) was around before most or all of the NT was written and collected together

This was the heart of the earliest Christian message

This was what they were sharing with everyone

This is what they were basing their movement on

Jesus died and was raised-according to Scriptures

Now they start to see all those Easter Eggs we've been looking at the past several weeks

Now they get that this is all through the Old Testament and they can't unsee it

Not only do they see this foretold, but they themselves were eyewitnesses to these things

This creed is so early that most of the people who experienced this first hand were still available to back it up

We saw Him die

We buried Him in the tomb

We saw Him raised again
And so did hundreds of other people
The resurrection was so irrefutable for those first believers
Its impact was so pervasive that everything in their message was based on this event
And it's the same message today
Jesus the Messiah died for our sins just like the Bible said He would
He was buried
He was raised again just like the Bible said
And we all saw/experienced it

12-23

The second part we read which comes just a few verses later dives deeper into the impact
Paul is writing to the Corinthians who believe in the evidence of Jesus' resurrection
But they struggled with what it meant for them
Some thought Jesus was unique and the resurrection was only for Him
Others thought that the resurrection had already happened and was over
Paul wants to make sure to correct both of these
Jesus being raised is the best sign of what awaits all who follow Him
AND that hasn't happened yet, the world we live in is not the final and
forever version that God promises
So Paul begins with what the people already believe
Jesus died, was buried, was raised, and appeared to a bunch of us
From that Paul moves to the impact those things have for all of us
If there's no resurrection or if it's some spiritual, non-physical literal thing then:

Christ has not been raised

Easter is evidence that all the rest that follows in this list is true for us like it
was/is for Jesus

Jesus was literally, physically raised from the dead

There was no body

Habeas corpus would have been a concrete way for all Jesus' enemies to
undo the story of His resurrection

Story after story centers on Jesus as solid, touch my hands and side, look
at me eat some fish

If there is no resurrection, not just for Jesus but for us in the future

Your faith is futile

Resurrection is central to what we believe

If resurrection is not real, our faith is not real

Central to the creed we just read and central to the good news of Jesus

This is the lynch pin that holds everything else together

You are still in your sins

Resurrection tied to forgiveness from sins from the very beginning

Remember that one time a man who couldn't walk was brought to Jesus

Religious leaders in the crowd doubted when Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven

As evidence of His power and authority, Jesus asked if it was easier to forgive the man's sins or tell him to get up and walk

The resurrection is evidence of God's power and authority to forgive our sins
Jesus paid the price for the sins on the cross, but the proof for us that He accomplished what He said is found in the empty tomb

Those asleep in Christ are lost

Resurrection gives hope for future (life beyond death)

Because it's not something that's already happened for us

It's something we have to look forward to

This is the hope we talk about when we lay a loved one to rest

This is the promise from Scripture that death did not and does not have the last word in their story

God does and God has so many more chapters left to write for us all

If Jesus was raised and we will be raised, the same is true for those who have gone before us

If resurrection is not real, Paul says we are the most to be pitied

To be a Christian, especially then, was not an easy life

Those who saw the risen Jesus and believed

Those who heard this creed and followed

Put themselves in harm's way

Those who were mentioned by name in this passage didn't die natural deaths, they were killed for their faith

And while they lived, they were often thrown in prison or beaten

They went hungry, they were shunned by loved ones

Why would anyone agree to do this if it wasn't real?

For me, this is one of the strongest arguments that the disciples didn't just steal Jesus' body and make this story up

It only made their lives harder

It cost them everything

Unless it was real

Resurrection gives meaning to their present suffering

Because there's so much more to come

Because we have nothing to be afraid of anymore

Because what can this world do to us

Our sins have been forgiven, our loved ones await us, and death itself is only a blip in our ongoing story

That's the impact of this day

Greater and more world changing than any crater left behind by any miles wide asteroid

This changes everything

Song: #367- Christ the Lord is Risen Today (vs. 1,2,4) accompanied by the PRC Bells)

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, 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!

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

Postlude