

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship

Good morning! It's Easter Sunday, a day when we celebrate the fact that Jesus died in our place on the cross, but the grave couldn't contain or conquer him. On the third day, he rose. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the victory flag signifying that our greatest enemies-Satan, sin and death – have forever been defeated. Join me in celebrating this good news!

This is the good news— the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news— the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah!

This is the good news— once we were no people; now we are God's people.

Hallelujah!

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

Hallelujah!

Join me as we sing praises unto our risen King, who is worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Song of Praise – *See What A Morning*

Confession of Sin – *1 Corinthians 5:7-8/Luke 24:34*

Alleluia! Christ, our Passover lamb, is sacrificed for us; and the Lord has risen indeed!

Have you ever stopped to truly reflect on the reason why the perfect Son of God had to die? God's word teaches us that it is you and it is me that deserved to receive upon our shoulders the righteous wrath of God. It is you and it is me that have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Yet, Jesus Christ took our place. His work on the cross is the demonstration of the amazing love that God has for His children. There is no work of righteousness that can be done to inherit salvation. For it indeed is by grace that we have been saved – not by our own works lest any man should boast.

Let's take the next few moments to confess our sins to God and thank Him for this gift of amazing grace that He has given us. Let's pray.

-Silent Prayer-

Song of Worship – *The Look*

Assurance of Salvation – (Source: James Smith)

Blessed Savior, your death prevents our damnation, and your resurrection secures our everlasting salvation! We shall never die for our sins—because you have died for them! O my soul, whenever you have guilt upon your conscience, and corruption rages like a stormy sea within you--then remember that "Christ died for our sins!" When your sins stare you in your face, or rise up like mountains before you—do not forget that "Christ died for our sins!" May we always be reminded that true biblical salvation is only found by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone In Christ Alone!

Songs of Worship – *In Christ Alone/I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

Offering - *“Come, see the place where the Lord lay,” with joy and gladness. He does not lie there now. “Weep, when ye see the tomb of Christ, but rejoice because it is empty...Rejoice, O Christian, for he is not there - he is risen.”* Charles Haden Spurgeon

The Gladness of the Risen God– (Source: John Piper)

Following His resurrection, Jesus Christ remained on earth for forty days. When the time came for Jesus to depart this world, the disciples knew He was going back to the realm of glory. Christ was going to receive the glory that He enjoyed with the Father from all eternity.

It is wonderful to see the suffering Son coming home to the Father. What a reunion that must have been when Creator embraced Creator and said, "Well done Son. Welcome home." What a wonderful thing to see the bloody Passover Lamb of Good Friday crowned with glory and honor, and handed the scepter of the universe!

But it is also wonderful to hear Jesus say in John 17:24, "I want others to be with me, Father. I want others to share my glory. I want my gladness in your glory to overflow like a mountain spring and become the gladness of others. I want my joy in you to be in them and their joy to be full forever and ever."

On Easter Sunday morning Jesus blew the lock off the prison of death and gloom and returned to the gladness of God. With that he put his sanction on the pursuit of happiness. And he opened the way for sinners to find never-ending satisfaction at the fountain of the glory of his grace.

From the right hand of God he speaks to everyone of us today and invites us to the never-ending banquet: "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

There is a glorious dwelling place provided by Jesus Christ for all His believing people. The world that now is, is not their rest: they are pilgrims and strangers in it. Heaven is their home. A home where there are many mansions and where our Lord is sitting at the right hand of the Father where the four living creatures surround the throne saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty--the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Songs of Worship – *Worthy is the Lamb/Holy, Holy, Holy*

Message – *“Living the Risen Life”*

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:1-4

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Before the Throne of God Above*

Benediction