

Worship Service

BY ALLISON BURAS

Call to Worship

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Let us worship the Lord our God.

Let us come before him with praise and thanksgiving.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Chiming of the Hour and Introit

Hymn of Praise

“’Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

*Jesus, Jesus how I trust him!
How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
just in simple faith to plunge me
’neath the healing, cleansing flood.

Refrain

Yes, ’tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace.

Refrain

I'm so glad I learned to trust him,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
and I know that he is with me,
will be with me to the end.

Refrain

Louisa M. R. Stead (1882), alt.

Tune: TRUST IN JESUS

Silent Meditation

Healing the lame [as in Acts 3] may lie far beyond our abilities. But is Peter and John's courageous speech to the authorities any less miraculous for us?

The church's speech in our pluralistic setting is increasingly muted and indistinct.

...Have we become fearful of speaking the name of Jesus? ...Have we lost the capacity to speak at all because we have become so respectful of public orthodoxy, so intent on maintaining our respectability? The voices of our cultured despisers ring loudly, "*On what authority do you say these things?*" We shrink back and speak only within the privacy of our homes and houses of worship.

...The Easter church is a speaking church, a community entrusted with words that no one else can speak and that have the power to heal the world: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. O Church, speak!

Doug Lee †

Psalter Reading (responsively): Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;**

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;**

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

**And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

Hymn of Petition

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
thou has bought us, thine we are;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
early let us turn to thee;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
early let us turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor;
early let us do thy will;
blessèd Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our beings fill;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still.

Dorothy A. Thrupp (1836)

Tune: BRADBURY

First Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord you have laid down your life for us,
and call us to lay down our lives for one another.

Grant us eyes to see the needs of those around us.

Grant us discipline to restrain our own greed for time or possessions
so that we can share with our neighbors.

Grant us compassion for those who have hurt others and hurt themselves.

Grant us joy in serving alongside one another as your Church.

Prosper the work of our hands Lord,
and let your kingdom come.

Amen

Hymn of Response

“As Christ and Church and Congregation”

As Christ and Church and congregation,
Jesus, God the Son, walks free.
His footprints’ fresh and firm impressions
map the worlds we would not see.

The Church sprouts green in ev’ry culture,
pushing up through dust and clay;
the gospel then takes root, transforming
life and death and work and play.

In clear embrace and separation
Church and culture dodge and dance.
In each new language, song, and symbol,
see the gospel's sure advance.

Then let the Church be ever Christ-like:
live his teachings, live his grace,
like Christ arise, each day, extending
unconditional embrace.

Terry W. York, ASCAP (2014)

Tune: HARDING, C. David Bolin (2014)

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(pp. 35-37 of this volume)

Second Reading: Acts 4:1-12

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Hymn of Adoration

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all;
we’ll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

Vv. 1-3, *Edward Perronet* (1780), alt.; v. 4, *John Rippon* (1787)
Tune: CORONATION

Prayer of Confession

We want to make every thought captive to you, O Lord,
but too often we bow down before idols of our own making.
We are ruled by our fears or our passions,
and our minds are not fixed on the things above.

Lord have mercy.

We want to proclaim with our lips, “Christ is Risen!”
but too often we wait to utter those words in the safe haven of your church,
and fail to bear witness to you in the world.

Christ have mercy.

We want to be a people who are known as Christians by our love,
but too often we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, we confess our unfaithfulness to you
in thought, word, and deed,
confident that you are faithful and just to forgive our sin
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ revealed his love to us in this,
that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Hear, then Christ's word of grace to us:
our sins are forgiven.

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Word of the Lord for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Preparation

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" (v. 1)

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

William H. Foulkes (1918)

Suggested Tunes: BREAD OF LIFE or EVENTIDE

Sermon

Offering

Passing of the Peace

Sung Benediction

“Gloria Patri”

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.

Lesser Doxology (third-fourth century)

Tune: MEINEKE

NOTES

† Doug Lee, “The Patron Saint of the Tongue-Tied,” *Ekklesia Project* (April 24, 2012), www.ekklesiaproject.org/blog/2012/04/the-patron-saint-of-the-tongue-tied/ (accessed December 3, 2014). Used by permission.

During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Old Testament. This service is based on the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B.



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