LIVE Resurrected LIFE! fearlessly in Christ

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

<u>PARENT'S ROOM</u> If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

<u>CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS</u> as well as a collection of Arch books are available to keep little hands busy during worship. They are located on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

<u>RESTROOMS</u> are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary. The other restrooms are to your left.

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be found in your church bulletin box or in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

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EASTER: LIVE YOUR RESURRECTED LIFE

THE EASTER SEASON

Because Jesus lives we know that our sins have all been paid for and our eternal salvation won. We can live our lives here on this earth with the confidence that our living Lord is always with us and that someday he will take us to be with him in the never-ending joy of heaven. For the seven weeks of Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Christ until the season reaches its climax on the 50th day, Pentecost.

WORSHIP SERIES

On Easter morning Jesus burst triumphantly from the grave, proclaiming his victory over sin, death, and hell forever. His resurrection is our guarantee that we too will be raised up one day to live with him in the glory of heaven. And yet, Jesus' resurrection gives us more than just hope for the future. It gives us new life here and now.

Yes, your body will be resurrected like Jesus' body one day, but your soul has already been resurrected. Once dead in sin, you have been raised up to live a new life, empowered and strengthened by your risen and living Savior. So go! Live Your Resurrected Life in Christ!

Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live" (John 5:25).

LIVE YOUR RESURRECTED LIFE...

...Fearlessly in Christ (April 11th)

...With Clarity from Christ (April 18th)

...Beloved by Christ (April 25th)

...Connected to Christ (May 2nd)

...Loving Like Christ (May 9th)

...Triumphantly with Christ (May 13th)

...Prayed for by Christ (May 16th)

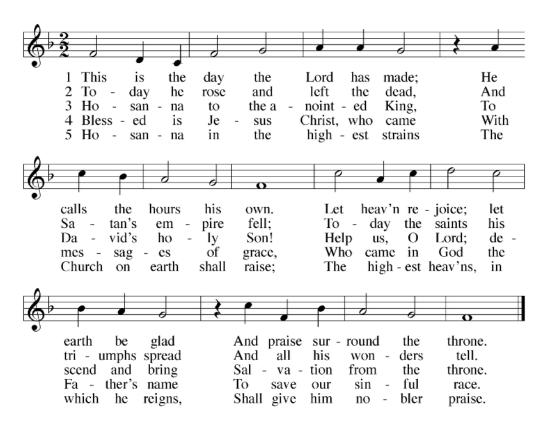


April 11, 2021

OPENING HYMN

This Is the Day the Lord Has Made | 225

Branches Band sings verse 1. The congregation joins in singing the remaining verses.



INVOCATION

- M In the name of the Father and of the Son ⊕ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Psalm 103 & Selected Verses

Branches Band:

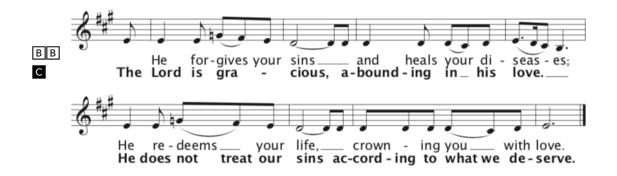
Praise the Lord, my soul; All my inmost being, Praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul.

Congregation repeats:



- M Our Lord commands us to "be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." However, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Matthew 5:48, Romans 3:23
- Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5
- The wages of sin is death. Our Lord calls us to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Romans 6:23, Matthew 4:17, 1 John 1:9
- We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. Daniel 9:5

Moment of silent confession



- M Our Lord wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. ^{1 Timothy 2:4, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 1:7}
- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and Sacrament and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



FIRST LESSON Acts 26:19-32

¹⁹ "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. ²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. ²² But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—
²³ that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

- ²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."
- ²⁵ "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."
- ²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"
- ²⁹ Paul replied, "Short time or long–I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."
- $^{\rm 30}\,\text{The king}$ rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them.
- ³¹ After they left the room, they began saying to one another, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."
- 32 Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

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Branches Band will sing the verses and introduce the first refrain. The congregation may join on all of the following refrains.

Branches Band refrain: Keep me safe, my God; for in you I take refuge.

Congregation repeats refrain:



You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.

I fix my eyes on you; with you I will not be shaken.

You alone my cup; you make my portion and lot secure.

I will praise you, Lord; you counsel and delight me.

Congregation refrain: Keep me safe, my God; for in you I take refuge.

Those who pursue other gods will suffer more and more; I will not take up their names upon my lips.

Congregation refrain: Keep me safe, my God; for in you I take refuge.

Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices.

My body rests secure, for you will not leave me to the grave.

I will not see decay; you make known the path of life.

You fill me with joy always; at your right hand for all my days.

Congregation refrain: Keep me safe, my God; for in you I take refuge.

Keep me safe, my God; for in you I take refuge.

SECOND LESSON

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/SONG

The children are invited to come forward to the front of the sanctuary to learn and sing a song with Branches Band.

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."



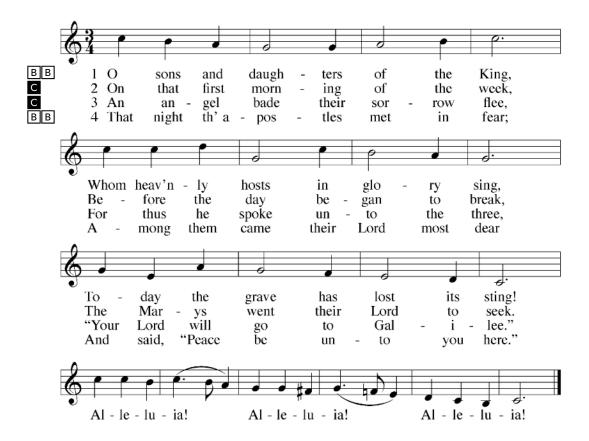
MY LORD AND MY GOD!

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

- ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
- ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- M The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Branches Band sings verses 1 and 4; the congregation joins on verses 2,3 and 8,9.



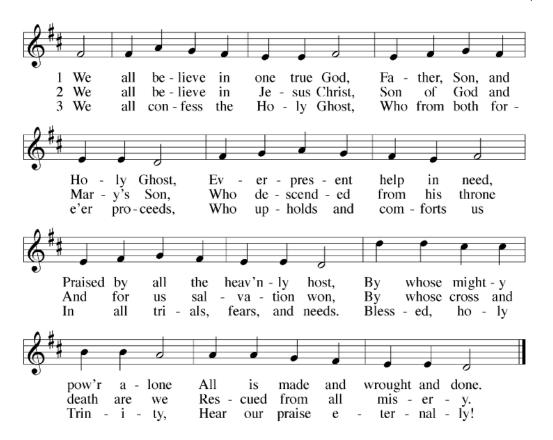
- 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been;
 In life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days
 To God your hearts and voices raise
 In laud and jubilee and praise.
 Alleluia!

SERMON Acts 26:19-32

"This Man Could Have Been Set Free"

HYMN OF CONFESSION

We All Believe in One True God | 270



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER SUNG BY BRANCHES BAND

ANTHEM BY BRANCHES BAND

There's a peace I've come to know Though my heart and flesh may fail There's an anchor for my soul I can say "It is well"

Jesus has overcome And the grave is overwhelmed The victory is won He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls my name No more sorrow, no more pain I will rise on eagles' wings Before my God fall on my knees And rise, I will rise

There's a day that's drawing near When this darkness breaks to light And the shadows disappear And my faith shall be my eyes

Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls my name No more sorrow, no more pain I will rise on eagles' wings Before my God fall on my knees And rise, I will rise

And I hear the voice of many angels sing Worthy is the Lamb And I hear the cry of every longing heart Worthy is the Lamb

And I hear the voice of many angels sing Worthy is the Lamb And I hear the cry of every longing heart Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb

And I will rise when He calls my name No more sorrow, no more pain I will rise on eagles' wings Before my God fall on my knees And rise, I will rise, I will rise

BLESSING SUNG BY BRANCHES BAND

May the Lord

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face shine upon you.

May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace;

And give you peace.

CLOSING HYMN

Branches Band will sing verse 1; the congregation joins on the remaining verses.



THANK YOU BRANCHES BAND

There will be a free-will door offering after the service to support the ministry of Branches Band. Feel free to visit their display in the gathering area for more information, CDs, and sheet music that Branches Band has produced.

About Branches Band

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches..." (John 15:5) Branches Band, a Milwaukee-based music group, uses their love for music to identify the Savior of the world: Jesus! From ancient hymns to modern songs, from guitars and piano to percussion and vocal harmonies, the truth of God's love and grace is at the root of the Branches Band ministry.

Branches Band travels all over the United States and Canada with their repertoire including hundreds of hymns and songs. Branches Band has served over 575 WELS and ELS congregations by offering Christian concerts, assisting with worship, and developing music resources for today's church leaders and worship teams.

For more information, visit facebook.com/branchesband or branchesband.com



WE EXIST TO GLORIFY GOD AS WE GATHER, GROW, AND GO